

# NEVER LET ME GO A DYSTOPIAN PSEUDO PARADISE

Dr.Nethravathi

*Assistant Professor*

*Department of English*

*Maharani's Arts College for Women*

*Mysuru.*

## ABSTRACT

Literature of the twentieth century refers to world literature produced during the twentieth century (1901 to 2000). The division of “popular literature” and “high literature” in the twentieth century is by no means absolute, and various genres such as detectives or science fiction fluctuate between the two. British literature, the literature of England, that includes writers from Scotland, Wales, and whole of Ireland, as well as literature in English from former British colonies.

Modernism is a major literature movement of the twentieth century. The term postmodernism in literature is used to describe certain tendencies in Post-World War-II literature.

The term post-modern literature is used to describe certain tendencies in Post- World War-II literature. It is both a continuation of the experimentation championed by writers of the modernist period and a reaction against enlightenment, ideas implicit in post-modernism as a whole, is difficult to define.

**Keywords:** *Genres, Fluctuate, Postmodernism, Describe, Tendencies, Experimentation, Enlightenment*

## INTRODUCTION

One of the themes that is most noticeable to us as readers in *Never Let Me Go*, is love. We see heated debates and broken friendships based round on this theme and in a sense, love determines the plot at every twist and turn throughout the novel. Right from the go, we see Kathy as very conservative and she comes across as lost. I feel this might be down to her lost love as although carers live a life of loneliness, Kathy's troubles seem to reach deeper as she seems forlorn. Also in chapter one, we see sparks of romance between Tommy and Kathy. We see them first meet during Tommy's first rage. Kathy seems to be determined to help Tommy and step above and beyond the others as she goes over to comfort him.

Kathy's care and compassion towards Tommy is evident as she picks up how his favourite shirt is all ruined. Providing Tommy with advice, she says comfortingly towards him.

*Nothing to worry about, It'll come off. If you can't get it off yourself, just take it to Miss*

*Jody.(p.11)*

This concluded their first meeting and sets the ball rolling for the rest of the novel with regards to the theme of love. Never Let Me Go, seems to have almost the exact same conclusion as Tommy's and Kathy's first meeting when a meeting with Romance attached is brought up. We see, although not so much in this first engagement of two characters, that Love although crucial to the novel is often stormy and seems to have a lot of loose ends.

Another reason for considering Never Let Me Go as a novel about Love, is that we see the development of Ruth and Tommy's relationship destroy all the characters inside, and out in sometimes, and in the end, destroys the plot itself, leaving the reader a shell of what is such an intricately woven novel. When Tommy and Ruth restart their relationship, we see Kathy assist the pair in getting back together. This shows a deep vein of jealousy from Kathy. We understand how Kathy wants to regain Ruth's friendship but I believe this is the beginning of the 'LOVE TRIANGLE'. We see how Ruth and Tommy are forcibly brought together, perhaps not through Love but through desperation, which questions the whole idea of Love and Relationships. We see Kathy being stern but considerate in an outburst:

*Tommy you look so stupid, laughing like that!. (p.160)*

Much like a mother and child sharing a unique and special connection, Kathy phrases her anger carefully ensuring that their relationship would not suffer.

During the first mention of deferrals and Ruth's outburst in Norfolk, the theme of love becomes extremely pivotal to the rest of the plot and having an increasingly significant effect on the characters and their ideas and attitudes. We see love providing escape from fate yet also playing cruel tricks on Tommy's heart as we see Ruth destroy it.

*Ruth turned away from him 'what you've got to realise' she said to Chrissie 'is that even though Tommy was at Halisham, he isn't like a real Halisham student. He was left out of everything and people were always laughing at him. (p.153)*

This quote shows how, as the character reach levels of maturity, relationships change and love is stretched to extremes. We empathise with Tommy as Ishiguro has created that heart crushing situation that none of us want to experience. We see Ruth beginning to destroy her relationship with Tommy, which ends with disastrous consequences. This shows how Ishiguro has integrated the theme of Love into this novel and how it is key to the plot that love is deeply involved Kathy also says,

*Back then, when you lost it. I used to think about it, in my head, what it would be like, if found it and brought it to you. What you'd say, your face, all of that. (p.170)*

which shows her care and affection for Tommy has been their ever since their first meeting. This is a key moment as it shows the sparks of relationship as Kathy and Tommy develop their friendship.

One extremely key section in the novel, related to love, is when Kathy and Tommy have sex for the first time. Love is shown here, through Kathy and Tommy consummating their relationship and showing their love for each other. This creates a very human side to the novel as we see two people deeply in love. celebrate this. Kathy narrates what happened and said how “we needed some intermediary stage before we could get into it in a full-blown way”. The term 'intermediary stage' suggests Kathy and Tommy needed time to prepare themselves before they consummated their love. This shows that the two had felt a strong connection before their relationship started. The tense and nervous atmosphere shows what an awkward effect love can have on people and the characters in Never Let Me Go in particular. From now to the conclusion of the novel, we see the relationship flower and their hope of their new and dedicated romance spur them on to seek out a deferral. In the end we see this break the couple as we see Tommy rage when they find out that deferrals are just a theory and there is no realism to their lost hope. This shows the ups and downs of love from sheer happiness, in contrast to utter despair and tragedy

The splitting of the love triangle becomes more prominent firstly in the graveyard scene when we see a conflict occurring between Tommy, Ruth and Kathy. Here Ruth criticizes Tommy's idea, regarding the gallery and his drawings. She then uses Kathy to undermine Tommy even more by saying “Kathy finds your animals a complete hoot which creates a two on one situation, because of Kathy's inability to intervene whilst in a state of shock over Ruth's sudden outburst.

Following on from this we see Kathy contemplating her decision to agree with Ruth, at the graveyard, as at the time she didn't realise the significance of her actions. This is shown when Kathy says.

*Of course I feel bad about it, especially about Tommy's animals (p.182)*

Showing her remorse and regret of what she did. We then see Kathy's attempt of a reconciliation at the bus stop with Ruth when she says “You know, Ruth we should try to sort it out, what happened the other day. To this Ruth agrees saying.

*'I think you're right...I've been thinking about it a lot too showing a kinder and more considerate side to Ruth. (p.145)*

Yet soon after, whilst still at the bus stop, we see Kathy being patronised and put down by Ruth when she reveals how 'Tommy doesn't like girls who've been with. To know with this person and that' showing Ruth as conniving as she tries to accuse Tommy of being rude whilst quite sly and humiliating Kathy.

The final section of this part shows Kathy reminiscing to Ruth about a childhood memory of going down to 'the rhubarb patch', yet Ruth seems to have no recollection of this which upsets Kathy and is ultimately the tipping point of the splitting up of the love triangle. During the splitting up of the love triangle we find out quite a lot about the kind of characters that Ruth, Kathy and Tommy are. Kirsty these events cause Kathy to act like someone who is easily lead, for example when Ruth accuses Kathy of calling Tommy's animal drawings 'a complete hoo' Kathy doesn't explain the context or even try to justify. Of course this is a reaction that she later regrets. This behaviour by Kathy leads us to think that she is over powered by Ruth and that sometimes isn't able to stand up for herself. We also see the insecure side of Kathy during this period, we see this when later on Kathy is contemplating her earlier decision of not explaining to Tommy that what Ruth said was untrue. She says 'of course I feel bad for it' and her implying that she wanted to say 'sorry' to Tommy but 'it wasn't as simple anymore. This tells us that Kathy is not confident enough to approach Tommy and that she is insecure as she keeps going over the decision she made.

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