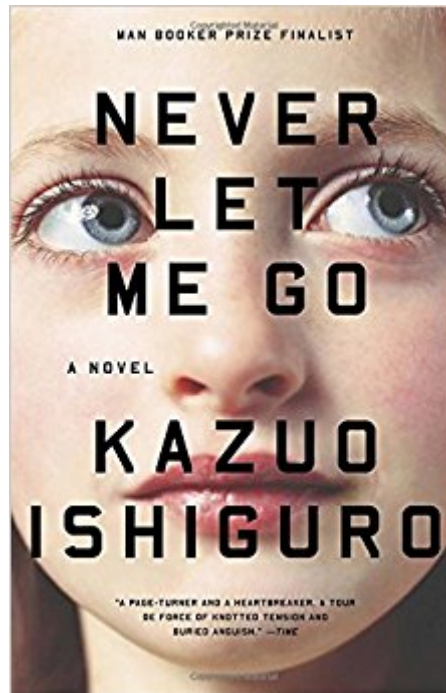




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# Never Let Me Go



## Synopsis

From the Booker Prize-winning author of *The Remains of the Day* comes a devastating new novel of innocence, knowledge, and loss. As children Kathy, Ruth, and Tommy were students at Hailsham, an exclusive boarding school secluded in the English countryside. It was a place of mercurial cliques and mysterious rules where teachers were constantly reminding their charges of how special they were. Now, years later, Kathy is a young woman. Ruth and Tommy have reentered her life. And for the first time she is beginning to look back at their shared past and understand just what it is that makes them special—and how that gift will shape the rest of their time together. Suspenseful, moving, beautifully atmospheric, *Never Let Me Go* is another classic by the author of *The Remains of the Day*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

All children should believe they are special. But the students of Hailsham, an elite school in the English countryside, are so special that visitors shun them, and only by rumor and the occasional fleeting remark by a teacher do they discover their unconventional origins and strange destiny. Kazuo Ishiguro's sixth novel, *Never Let Me Go*, is a masterpiece of indirection. Like the students of Hailsham, readers are "told but not told" what is going on and should be allowed to discover the secrets of Hailsham and the truth about these children on their own. Offsetting the bizarreness of these revelations is the placid, measured voice of the narrator, Kathy H., a 31-year-old Hailsham alumna who, at the close of the 1990s, is consciously ending one phase of her life and beginning another. She is in a reflective mood, and recounts not only her childhood memories, but her quest in

adulthood to find out more about Hailsham and the idealistic women who ran it. Although often poignant, Kathy's matter-of-fact narration blunts the sharper emotional effects you might expect in a novel that deals with illness, self-sacrifice, and the severe restriction of personal freedoms. As in Ishiguro's best-known work, *The Remains of the Day*, only after closing the book do you absorb the magnitude of what his characters endure. --Regina Marler --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Adult/High School "The elegance of Ishiguro's prose and the pitch-perfect voice of his narrator conspire to usher readers convincingly into the remembered world of Hailsham, a British boarding school for special students. The reminiscence is told from the point of view of Kathy H., now 31, whose evocation of the sheltered estate's sunlit rolling hills, guardians, dormitories, and sports pavilions is imbued with undercurrents of muted tension and foreboding that presage a darker reality. As an adult, Kathy re-engages in lapsed friendships with classmates Ruth and Tommy, examining the details of their shared youth and revisiting with growing awareness the clues and anecdotal evidence apparent to them even as youngsters that they were different from everyone outside. [...] Ishiguro conveys with exquisite sensitivity the emotional texture of the threesome's relationship, their bonds of personal loyalty that overcome fractures of trust, the palpable boundaries of hope, and the human capacity for forgiveness. Highly recommended for literary merit and as an exceptional platform for the discussion of a controversial topic." --Lynn Nutwell, Fairfax City Regional Library, VA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I listened to this on audio tapes years ago. I remember it was a captivating story, unlike any I'd ever read. The author writes in a very distinct style, and the main character really feels genuine, so much so I was surprised it was by a male author. That said, I found the tone of the book, reading it instead of listening to it, quite somber. Slightly depressing. But still engrossing. (I purchased this for my Kindle recently, so I'm reading it again as opposed to listening to the audio version, and it seems more bleak). In short, I feel it is well written, there is a little bit of suspense, and well-developed characters that keep the unusual book going at a decent pace. There are a lot of allusions, because the main character is often talking about the past, so she doesn't quite remember everything exactly and doesn't quite know what to make of things because she sees things differently as she matures. It's interesting to read her thought processes.

I am having a difficult time trying to pin down everything this book explores. It is an excellent reveal of jealousy, angst and our need for connection throughout life. If you don't like nuance and subsumed reveals, this may not be for you. But I am very impressed by how well the story is laid out. I truly appreciate the delicate manner in which the overall theme of the book is presented to the reader. I think that this book is a triumph in the tug-of-war that is adolescence and how much we are able to see through the eyes of the author.

This book shows, in a rather colloquial writing, the life of Kathy H. who clings to a dystopian world of course carers and donors. She herself is a clone. However, she tries to justify her existence with the help of others like her. It's an interesting, weird, and intriguing premise. Where this book falls short is its lack of explanations early on. Mind you, I'm fine with the intriguing fluff I'd need to search for. But what this misses is the type that sets the stage, that sets the scenery, mood, tone, and base understanding for this story. Thus, I highly encourage readers to push forward with resilience. Because it is at the last part where things tumble, where that point of "aha!" hits you. It's here where the solemn breeze drifts through, where your mind tumbles and falls, and where the romance seduces you. And it is only here, with your mind enraptured, that you would find this book worthwhile. At least in my opinion. This is a good book. It doesn't rely at all on environmental descriptions, which means it is more psychologically-intensive. As I've realized above, the only bad part is its god-awfully long setup. I nearly gave up, but I'm glad I didn't.

This is really an interesting story and yes even sad. However, the way the story is told makes it harder to follow and keep up with the narrative. If I had known this wasn't going to be a fun book to read, I wouldn't have read it but I was drawn to the book by its title. Anyhow, the author will write, "I walked by a tree" and then spend the next 5 pages explaining every event that ever happened to the tree. At some point I just began skipping these stories because as irrelevant as the characters are portrayed, so are these stories.

I was struck by the Author's other book, *The Buried Giant* (very interesting, good, and different), and decided to try other books by the same author. *Never Let Me Go* managed to hold my attention for the first 70+ pages but then I had to give up. Wished I would have stopped after 30 pages. I guess the description sounded pretty boring but I wanted to try it, anyway. Sorry, I wanted to really like the book but I can't. But I definitely recommend *The Buried Giant*.

It's very unusual for me to read any books with science fiction themes. I'd also call this a post-modern book except that Ishigoro states that it takes place in the 1990's. However, this novel wowed me. I could not put it down once I'd started it. The story is about a tight-knit group of students who go to a boarding school in England called Hailsham. On the surface, Hailsham is like any other posh place. However, once you look under the surface, there is something very odd lurking. The students have never been out of Hailsham and they are unfamiliar with the 'ordinary' world except for what they learn from their teachers or textbooks. There is no internet nor is there any computer learning. The students are preparing to be 'donors'. They know this but they don't really know what it is. As the book says, they are "told but not told". They are children raised by their teachers at Hailsham who are called guardians. They don't have families or parents. They have been created through some sort of cloning for the purpose of giving their organs to others once they reach a certain age. The main characters in the book are Ruth, Tommy and Kathy. Kathy is the narrator and the novel is told through her eyes. Ruth is the ringleader of their group, and her moodiness and opinions often set the tone for how the others feel. Tommy starts out as a young boy who is angry all the time, filled with tantrums and acting out. As he matures, he learns to control his anger and fit in with the rest of the students. Kathy is a pleaser. She wants everyone to get along, to make things right with others. The students are encouraged to be creative. About four times a year they have 'exchanges', a time when they are able to choose items that they or other students have created - poems, paintings, drawings, sculptures. However, before the students get to pick their choices, a mysterious 'Madame' comes to the campus and gets to go through the artwork first. The students have a rumor that she has a gallery somewhere. For creating this artwork, the students are given tokens and these tokens serve as their currency to buy things at 'sales'. About four times a year, a white van pulls into Hailsham and the students are given an opportunity to buy items that it delivers. I was struck that the most modern item mentioned is a CD headset. Throughout the book, there is an undercurrent of doom and gloom, conspiracy and intrigue. The students never are privy to anything in the ordinary world. They are not allowed to have hopes and dreams. Their future is set. They are to be either donors or carers. Usually, once they are in their late teens, they start as carers and then they become donors until they 'complete'. The word 'death' is never mentioned in this book. This is a book to immerse oneself in. I grew to care for the protagonists and had a sense of their world, eerie as it was. I felt for their lost hopes and dreams, their wonderment about where they came from and who they really were. I highly recommend this book.

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