

## Never Let Me Go

*Never Let Me Go* is set in a parallel world where human clones are raised to be 'donors' - providing the general population with replacement organs. Nice for the general population – not so nice for the clones.

It's narrated by a young woman named Kathy as she looks back on her relationship with her friends Tommy and Ruth.

In the beginning of the book the three friends attend a mysterious boarding school.

A rebellious teacher reveals that their lives will be far from normal;

“You will become adults, then, before you're old, before you're even middle-aged, you'll start to donate your vital organs. That's what each of you are created to do.”

Ruth dates Tommy and the three drift apart. Kathy becomes 'a carer' and leaves the others behind.

As a 'carer' Kathy looks after 'donors' as they have their organs extracted. By chance Ruth comes under Kathy's wing. The two make up and find Tommy. Before she dies Ruth admits that:

“I kept you and Tommy apart... It should have been you two.”

Tommy and Kathy start seeing each other. They attempt to get a deferral but learn it isn't possible - and in the far from rib-tickling finale Tommy dies and Kathy becomes a donor.

Memory is one of the key themes in *Never Let Me Go*.

Kathy's memories determine the narrative structure of the novel. Her memories of Hailsham, much like real memories, don't happen in a chronological order. This style of reminiscence is similar to that of older people reaching the end of their days and reflects Kathy's proximity to death. Even by taking the unorthodox step of setting a sci-fi book in the past the author, Kazuo Ishiguru, is emphasising the importance of memory and personal history to his characters, to the book and, by extension, to us all.