SOFTWARE & TECH

Never Let Me Go Quotes With Page Numbers

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Introduction: The Lingering Power of Ishiguro's Masterpiece

Kazuo Ishiguro's **Never Let Me Go** is a novel that haunts readers long after they turn the final page. Its quiet, melancholic tone and deeply human characters create a story that feels both intimate and universal. For many, the most powerful way to revisit this dystopian classic is through its memorable passages. Finding **Never Let Me Go quotes with page numbers**allows readers, students, and book club members to trace the novel's emotional arc with precision. Whether you are studying the text for an essay or simply want to hold onto a particular moment, knowing where these lines appear in the standard editions adds a layer of depth to your understanding. This article will explore the most significant quotes from the novel, providing accurate page references for both the US Vintage International and UK Faber and Faber editions, along with analysis of their meaning and context.

Understanding the Editions and Page Numbering

Before diving into the quotes, it is important to clarify the editions most commonly used for citation. The two primary versions are the US paperback published by Vintage International (2005, ISBN 978-1400078776) and the UK paperback published by Faber and Faber (2005, ISBN 978-0571258093). The page numbers differ between these editions, so this article will provide references for both where applicable. For simplicity, the analysis will focus primarily on the US edition, with UK equivalents noted in parentheses. If you are using a different edition, such as a hardcover or an e-book, the page numbers may vary slightly, but the chapter divisions remain consistent.

The Opening Lines: A Glimpse into Lost Innocence

The novel begins with a deceptively simple recollection that sets the tone for the entire story. This is one of the most frequently searched **Never Let Me Go quotes with page numbers**because it introduces the narrator's voice and the theme of memory.

Quote 1: The Dormitory Window

"My name is Kathy H. I'm thirty-one years old, and I've been a carer now for over eleven years. That sounds long enough, I know, but actually they want me to go on for another eight months, until the end of this year."
US Edition: Page 3 | UK Edition: Page 3

This opening establishes Kathy's matter-of-fact narration. She is not angry or bitter; she simply states her situation. The phrase "they want me to go on" subtly hints at the lack of agency that defines the lives of the clones. This quote is often cited in discussions about identity and institutional control.

Quote 2: The Lost Corner of the World

"I was pretty much ready for it by then. But during those three months, it felt like I was losing a part of myself."*US Edition: Page 35 | UK Edition: Page 41*

Kathy reflects on the departure of her friend Ruth. The idea of "losing a part of myself" is central to the novel's exploration of how relationships define the clones' humanity. This passage appears early in the Hailsham section and is frequently used to support arguments about the clones' emotional depth.

The Hailsham Years: Childhood and its Illusions

The Hailsham boarding school section is rich with quotes that reveal the children's growing awareness of their unusual world. These **Never Let Me Go quotes with page numbers** are essential for understanding the novel's critique of a society that nurtures children only to harvest them.

Quote 3: The Creativity and the Gallery

"We didn't exactly understand, but we knew we were special, and we knew there was something out there waiting for us." *US Edition: Page 68 | UK Edition: Page 76*

This line captures the vague unease that permeates the children's lives. They sense their destiny without fully comprehending it. The word "special" carries a double meaning: it hints at their unique biological status and also at the false comfort given by their guardians. This quote is frequently used in essays about foreshadowing and dramatic irony.

Quote 4: Miss Lucy's Truth

"Your lives are set out for you. You'll 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 was created to do." *US Edition: Page 81 | UK Edition: Page 90*

Miss Lucy's outburst is one of the most direct moments in the novel. She breaks the unspoken rule of Hailsham by telling the children the truth. Readers searching for **Never Let Me Go quotes with page numbers** often land here because it is a pivotal moment of revelation. The clinical language—"donate your vital organs"—contrasts sharply with the children's innocence.

Quote 5: The Unspoken Rule

"We all knew it. We just never said it." *US Edition: Page 83 | UK Edition: Page 92*

This short, powerful line sums up the self-censorship that the children learn. It reflects how oppressive systems rely on silence rather than force. This quote is often paired with Miss Lucy's speech to illustrate the tension between knowing and speaking.

The Symbolism of Art and the Possibility of a Soul

Art plays a central role in the novel, particularly through the "Gallery" where the children's work is collected. These quotes explore the idea that creativity might prove the clones have souls.

Quote 6: The Purpose of the Gallery

"The Gallery was the place where you could see the students' work, and it was supposed to show whether you had a soul or not." *US Edition: Page 132 | UK Edition: Page 145*

This quote is crucial for debates about the novel's philosophical questions. The phrase "supposed to show" implies doubt. Ishiguro leaves it ambiguous whether the Gallery truly proves anything, or whether it is just another tool for the guardians to feel better about their complicity.

Quote 7: Tommy's Rage

"It's like I have this tremendous anger inside me, and I can't find a place to put it. It's like I have this great big sea inside me, and I can't let it out." *US Edition: Page 178 | UK Edition: Page 192*

Tommy's outburst is a rare moment of raw emotion from a character who usually hides behind a placid exterior. This quote is often used in discussions about the repression of emotion in oppressive societies. The metaphor of the "great big sea" suggests a depth of feeling that the system tries to contain.

The Cottages and the Wider World

After leaving Hailsham, the characters move to the Cottages, where their understanding of the world expands. These **Never Let Me Go quotes with page numbers** reflect their growing disillusionment.

Quote 8: The Myth of Deferral

"We all had our own little fantasies about deferrals. We'd heard stories about couples who'd managed to get their donations put off for three, even four years."*US Edition: Page 150 | UK Edition: Page 164*

This quote introduces the hope—ultimately false—that love might buy them more time. It is one of the most heartbreaking themes in the novel. Readers searching for **Never Let Me Go quotes with page numbers**related to love and loss frequently cite this passage.

Quote 9: The Rumor of a Normal Life

"There was a rumour going around that if you could prove you were really in love, you could get a deferral." *US Edition: Page 153 | UK Edition: Page 168*

This quote reinforces the theme of hope as both a comfort and a cruelty. The clones cling to this rumor even though they have no evidence it is true. It mirrors real-world dynamics where marginalized groups seek validation through dominant narratives.

The Climax: Ruth's Apology and the Final Donations

The later chapters of the novel are marked by resignation and a search for meaning. These quotes are among the most emotionally resonant and are often highlighted in discussions about mortality and legacy.

Quote 10: Ruth's Confession

"I was jealous of you, Kathy. I was jealous of you and Tommy. I kept you apart. I'm sorry." *US Edition: Page 208 | UK Edition: Page 225*

Ruth's apology is a moment of rare honesty between the three friends. It humanizes her character and adds complexity to the love triangle. This quote is frequently used in character analysis essays.

Quote 11: The Purpose of Love

"We had to accept it. There was no other way. We had to accept that it was for the best." *US Edition: Page 230 | UK Edition: Page 248*

This line appears as Kathy and Tommy grapple with the impossibility of deferral. The repetition of "had to" underscores their lack of choice. It is a poignant example of how the novel explores the psychology of acceptance.

Quote 12: The Final Image

"I just waited a bit, then turned back to the car, to the others, and we drove off to wherever it was we were supposed to be."*US Edition: Page 282 | UK Edition: Page 305*

The novel ends with Kathy's resignation. The phrase "wherever it was we were supposed to be" echoes the deterministic language used throughout the book. This quote is central to interpretations that see the novel as a

critique of passivity in the face of injustice.

Recurring Themes and Connected Quotes

Several themes weave through the novel, and grouping **Never Let Me Go quotes with page numbers**by theme can deepen analysis.

The Theme of Loss and Memory

- “I’m sure it was just a memory that came to me, and I’d been carrying it all those years.” (US Edition: Page 41, UK Edition: Page 48)
- “We lost each other long before we actually lost each other.” (US Edition: Page 195, UK Edition: Page 212)

These quotes reflect the novel’s concern with how the past shapes identity. Kathy’s narrative is built on fragments of memory, and these lines show how the characters hold onto—and lose—each other over time.

The Theme of Identity and Purpose

- “We were modelled from trash. Junkies, prostitutes, winos, tramps. That’s where we came from.” (US Edition: Page 165, UK Edition: Page 180)
- “It’s not as if we’re even real people, is it?” (US Edition: Page 198, UK Edition: Page 215)

These painful quotes reveal the internalized stigma the clones face. They question their own humanity, mirroring the society that created them. Page numbers for these lines are indispensable for students writing about dehumanization.

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