

## Hanya Yanagihara's *A Little Life* Analysis

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### Abstract

Little Life was written by Hanya Yanagihara and was published in March 2015 by Doubleday. A Little Life is Yanagihara's second novel, and due to the difficult subject matter, neither the author nor editor predicted that the novel would be popular. Nonetheless, it received very strong critical reviews and a positive response from readers. The novel was shortlisted for the 2015 Man Booker Prize for fiction and won the 2015 Kirkus prize for fiction. Yanagihara was also selected as a finalist for the 2015 National Book Award in Fiction. However, there were a few notable exceptions in which the novel received negative reviews. Most of these reviews focused on the grim subject matter and graphic representations of bodily suffering. A few critics also took issue with Yanagihara writing about gay male characters without having lived experience of this identity. On the other hand, Yanagihara has also received praise for sensitive depictions of trauma and loss in the gay community.

**KEYWORDS:** gay, trauma, bodily suffering

From mythological legends to science fiction to animated heroes, storytelling in all forms captures the creative power, and sentiments of the readers. It can also engross readers perception and illuminate them to social concerns in a way that reality often can't. Cultural values societal fears and current circumstances are all way fiction provides a mirror for real life.

As litterateurs produce fiction, their narrative often mirror the real life, fear the plague, the society. The apocalyptic and dystopian literature of the twentieth century, which depicts end of the world scenarios and failed attempts to create a perfect society, provide key examples. While reflections of the societal fears portray uncertainty about the future, fiction can also bring readers understanding of their current circumstances by mirroring real life events.

Life is often boring and could feel pointless on many occasions. Fiction however can be said to be the mirror of life, because it reflects and comments on aspects of things people encounter in their daily life. Realistic fiction is real life set to fiction. It's about anything that can happen in real life - good, bad, and in-between. It's real emotions and behaviours in real settings and encompasses the experiences of characters from all different backgrounds. It can also include extremes, both positive and negative, from high living with a focus on wealth, designer clothes, and private schools to the darker extremes of drug use, family breakdowns, and sexual assault. The only limit is reality, which, depending on one's point of view, is either a jump-off point into the fantastical or just where it starts to get interesting all on its own. Well, almost anything except the fantastical is fair game. Stories are frequently about life changing events and their repercussions or opportunities for growth. It can be as sweet as first love and finding out who you really are or as bleak as coming to terms with a sexual assault (Speak). Friendships, love, sex, relationships, cliques, school, growing up, family issues, and

leaving for college are all common themes in realistic novels for teens. Often, realistic fiction focuses on solving problems, voyages (sometimes literal ones) of self-discovery, and coming of age. These stories can be played for humour or for drama, but angst and silliness are not necessarily mutually exclusive in the same story

For me, reality and fiction coexist. There is no definite reality or absolute fiction. If you combine ten realistic stories and make it into one, the story would be fictional. But if a fictional story is told realistically, it is a reality. There is no boundary between reality and fiction. Fiction is just another way to deal with reality. In some ways, it's no less truthful than documentary film. With fiction films, the ethical struggle with objectivity in documentary is removed and you are free to deal with reality in a way that acknowledges the inherent subjectivity in any depiction of the outside world. I personally like to think there is no dividing line between fiction and reality and each has elements of other. Fiction can mirror real life but it is the way of presentation before the readers that makes fiction a mirror of life.

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A Little Life tells the story of four classmates who move from a Massachusetts College to New York looking for a better future. Willem, JB, Malcolm and Jude begins their career but their journeys were more hard than they expected. The novel is divided into seven chapters namely Lisperard Street, the Postman, Vanities, the Axiom of Equality, the Happy Years, Dear Comrade and Lisperard Street. The novel focuses on Jude, he is a lawyer, with a mysterious past and unexplained health issues .Malcolm is an architect from a wealthy family, JB a painter, and Willem is an aspiring actor.

In the nascence of the novel Willem and Jude were searching for an apartment for their own and finally they finds one and moves to their own apartment on Lisperard Street in New York. It was a small, gloomy and drab apartment, but its ok for both of them because they were not earning a huge amount of money and they don't have a family as both are orphans. At this time Willem works as a waiter in a restaurant while acting in off Broadway plays and Jude is struggling to establish himself as a lawyer. Willem and Jude is close to each other. Soon after beginning their life in apartment Willem finds Jude as self harming, when he cuts himself too deeply and Willem is forced to help him seek medical attention. Willem's feelings for Jude were complicated. He loved him that part was simple and feared for him and sometimes felt as much his older brother and protector as his friend. He knew that Jude would be and had been fine without him, but he sometimes saw things in Jude that disturbed him and made him feel both helpless and paradoxically more determined to him (although Jude rarely asked for help of any kind). This shows Willem's love for Jude.

During this incident character of Andy is introduced. Andy is Jude's doctor and he is the only person from whom he will seek medical attention. Andy is very close to Jude and Andy remains a caretaker for Jude for his self destructive behaviors and his inability to forget his bad childhood. He is not a physician but does the work of a physician only for Jude, this shows the love Andy had for Jude. From the very beginning chapter itself the love for Jude by Willem and Andy is revealed. Meanwhile, JB finds a studio space and begins his paintings. In the beginning of his career, JB worked as a receptionist at a small but influential magazine. Then the family background of JB is revealed. He is the only male in the family, his father has died when he was three and after his father's death his mother earned her doctorate in education and she taught in public schools and bought up JB in a good way. At home he had grandmother, aunts, her mother's sister and her girlfriend. The lesbian and gay relationships were acceptable during that time. JB buys a camera, and he begins to take pictures of his friends, which he then paints. JB is always interested in taking pictures of Jude because it is hard to get good postures of him. But this habit of JB makes Jude discomfort able and nervous.

Willem's background is then revealed. Willem was his parent's fourth child. He was born in Sweden. His father was Icelandic and mother was Danish. He had two brothers and one sister, her name was Britte, she was the eldest, then came Hemming, he was born with cerebral palsy, and next comes Aksel, who had died in his sleep as

an infant for no apparent reason, and last came Willem. Willem was very close to Hemming and he loved him very much. Willem looked after Hemming until he left home for his studies. After few years Hemming died followed shortly by death of his parents and Willem turned to be an orphan.

Malcolm is facing a problem with his profession. He starts quarrelling with his superiors, finds himself unproductive and thinks that all his coworkers are talented and brilliant. In order to keep up his situation he starts overworking, he used to live with his parents, he even dropped his travel to parents and stayed at office working for long hours. He got stressed up. For him only important aspects of one's identity were sexual power, professional accomplishment and money, in all these aspects, Malcolm was also failing. He was paid less, his race was not much better and he doesn't have good sexual knowledge and sexuality. During his school days he fell in love with various people, he often thought that being a boy was more attractive. Malcolm even had found himself already half in love with Willem and at various points in love with Jude too. This portrays the confusion of Malcolm in identifying his sexuality. All these made him feel like a failure for himself.

It was earlier decided to celebrate New Year party at Willem's and Jude's new apartment. As already decided the party was hosted by them. Days before the party Jude cut himself, during this time there was only Willem in the home and he called for his help, the injury was severe and it a bleeding heavily. Willem took him to Andy and he examined him .Andy was quiet frustrated and angry at Jude's act, he shouted at Williams for not taking care of him properly. This shows Andy's love and care for Jude, the bond between them was that much intensive.

They came back to the apartment, after few hours rest they cleaned up the rooms for the party. JB and Malcolm they had their discussions, arguments and food, JB demanded to move to the rooftop, so that he can have some fresh air and can smoke some cigarettes. The roof was tar papered. The climate became colder and Jude insisted to go back to room as non of them were wearing a sweater, the happy cool night took a bad turn. The door got locked and they got stocked there. They were not having the keys and phones along with them. For a while they screamed, pounded their feet on the rooftop in the hope that someone would help them. Beneath them, they had three neighbors; they had still never met them. They had tried different plans to make an escape but none them were a success and finally Jude and Willem was forced to jump down through the fire escape to get back to their room.

"The Postman" , the novel's second chapter begins as the men turned thirty. Jude was thinking about his entry into thirties. Their was no much changes in his life. The beginning chapter presents the character Felix, Jude tutored Felix, he was twelve years old, his father was a friend of Malcolm's father, and it was through Malcolm's father Jude got this job. Felix was small and unappealing; also he was not good at studies. His main problem was lack of passion and loneliness. He never had friends and he always felt sad and cried out for that. Felix improved in his studies, Jude always felt sorry for him.

During an episode of particular pain resulting from his disability, Jude tells Willem that the source of his injury was a car accident, though he tells him no more. In a flashback Jude remembers about Ana. Ana was his first and only social worker and the first person who has never betrayed him, who talked to him seriously about the college - the college he ended up attending and who was convinced that he would get

in. She hadn't been the first person to suggest this but she had been the most insistent. Ana took care of him after the car accident. During this time he was kept in care of an evangelical family. He stayed at Douglasses's house. They had two other fosters, girls were young, Rosie was eight and had Dawn Syndrome, Agnes was nine and had Spine Bifida. Jude loved Ana's care more than Douglasses's. It was Ana who took him to most of his doctor's appointments; she stood along with him while making his walks possible. The doctors determined Jude couldn't continue his education. Ana made all her effort to make him continue his studies. She found a tutor for him, she helped him with everything, she wrote his recommendations, she let him use her computer for typing essays, she even paid for his application fee. Ana is diagnosed with cancer. He cared her and her dying wish is for Jude to attend the University. He gets a summer job in a bakery and waits to attend University in the fall.

He was the first one to reach the room of their hostel. In the beginning it was hard for him to adjust with the atmosphere of the college and hostel. He had finished up his graduation and had started clerking for the judge. During this time the character of Harold is introduced. Jude works as clerk under Sullivan. It was Harold who encouraged him to apply for the post. Sullivan was a man with peculiar character, during his interview he made him sing and he got the appointment as a clerk. Harold was very ambitious about Jude and had special love and care for him. Harold bought him new dress, shoes and other requirements for his job. It was Harold who taught him driving in his own car. Harold even became friends with Jude's friends as well and he hosted parties for them. Harold had a son; he died at a very young age. One day Harold pretends to jump at Jude and he recoils breaking a mug that was made by Harold's son Jacob before he died, Jude was horrified of this act, he knew how precious it was for Harold, but Harold treated Jude with compassion.

In another flashback Jude recounts how he was left beside a trash bin in South Dakota and taken to a monastery. He was treated very badly by the brothers and suffered physical and emotional abuse. Brother Luke was his favorite of the brothers, who rarely spoke to him and never scolded him. Other brothers mostly avoided Luke this made him think that he is not good, but Brother Luke was always good to him. Jude had an habit of stealing, one day he was accused for stealing Brother Peter's comb, he was hit badly for this. Jude never stopped this habit, he continued this as a revenge for the punishment he had. When this continued Jude was caught and he was presented before Father Gabriel's office every night, he was made to stand nude in front of him, the father would examine him for any contraband. In the name of punishment and examination Jude was actually sexually abused. This examination was expanded to include midday ones with Brother Peter, this scene present the erotic character of the monks in the monastery. The continuous sexual harassment worsened Jude's condition, he began crying loudly at night and he started hurting himself. This habit of Jude made the monks tensed but they continued their hitting and harassment towards him. Jude started wetting his bed and was made to visit the father more often, for more examinations, and the more examinations the father gave him the more he wet the bed. The father began visiting him in his room at night, and so did Brother Peter and later Brother Mathew and he got worse and worse; they made him sleep in his wet night shirt, they made him wear it in the day too. Sometimes he was hit hard enough so that he lost consciousness, which is what he began to crave; that blackness, where time passed and he was not in it, where things were done to him but he didn't do it. He was tortured; he screeched out tumultuously as he could and this forced brothers to hurt him further and ultimately he stopped screaming, because he

understood that the quieter he was the sooner it would end up. One day with annoyance and abhorrence Jude destroyed flowers in Brother Luke's garden, Jude expected punishment from Luke but he was pleasant to him, this incident made him more close to Luke. He lead Jude to the greenhouse and he molested him. His problems started when he allowed himself to be escorted into greenhouse, when he gave up everything to follow Brother Luke. That had been the moment and after that it had never been right again.

JB has his first exhibition and it is a remarkable success. He had drawn a series of twenty four pictures named "The Boys", these paintings were actually photographs which were taken by him. JB had promised that he will not draw any pictures of Jude without his concern, he never kept these words and drawn his pictures without his concern. Along with this incident JB mocked Jude's limbs and the result was that the friendship between JB Jude was broken up. By this time Willem has become a busy actor, Harold has hosted a thanksgiving party. It was attended by Harold, Julia, Laurence, Gillian, Julia's friend James and his boy friend Carey, Willem and Jude. Harold and Julia revealed their idea of adopting Jude as their son, Jude was surprised and frightened to hear this news. He never accepted it initially because, when he was in the monastery, a family named Leary's came to adopt him. They had two daughters, both of them are married. Mr and Mrs Leary had become older, they wanted him to look after them, they took him along with them, he looked after them and the house very carefully. But after two weeks they sent him back and later a message came they don't need him, this was a shock to him because he was sure that he have never done a mistake. This incident along with his STD forced him to deny their proposal, Andy counseled him and he agreed for the adoption and finally on fifteenth February Harold and Julia adopted Jude as their son.

By the third section Willem lives in a new apartment on Greene Street. While they were in their second year their next door suitemates were a trio of lesbians named Edie Kim, Marta, Francesca, after several years they meet up in a party hosted by Edie for her transformation into a man. Willem is now not with Jude because he had relation with Philippa and also because of his busy shooting schedules. Philippa was a costume designer, both of them maintained a good friend circle, but the friendship was lost when they started living. Willem cared her helped her in her works , went along with her to her workplaces and parties. But she wanted a kind of surrender from him, a dedication to her and a relationship that superseded the others, which he couldn't bring himself to do and finally they broke up, a relation of four years came to an end.

Jude takes a job working with a private law firm, it was owned by a person named Voigt, he was confident of Jude's brilliance and he bribed him. Harold was not happy with this decision but he proceeded with the job because he needed a change from his present situation and also wanted to build a career of his own. There he became friend with Richard, Jude bought Richard's parent's old apartment, and Malcolm helped him with extensive renovations of the apartment.

JB starts drug addiction, during this time Malcolm was with Sophie for visiting her parents in Hamburg, Jude was with Harold and Julia, Willem was at shooting in Cappadocia. The reason for his drug addiction was his loneliness, broken friendship and enormous money that he has earned from the exhibitions he has conducted.

By the fourth section JB and Jude meets, only because of Willem Jude accepts JB's apology talks to him. Now Willem had a new girlfriend Robin. Willem made all measures to prevent the problems that may occur in their relation, he doesn't want to face a situation he had to undergo when he was in a relationship with Philippa. Willem and Jude have a clash, the reason behind this was Jude's hesitance to open up his problems before Willem, this created a gap in their friendship which was later solved.

After a long time Harold and Jude met, they had their usual discussions. Sometime Jude wonders whether this very idea of loneliness is something he would feel at all, had he not been awakened to the fact that he should be feeling lonely, that there is something strange and unacceptable about the life he has. People around him pity him for being single. Jude never had a partner, he has been attending the parties for the past five years alone, but as change he took Lucien along with him. This made Lucien to think about a relationship with him, and she proposed with rewards for being in a relation. Jude denied this, he want a companion to avoid his loneliness not for any rewards. He so lonely that he sometimes feels it physically a clump of dirty laundry pressing against his chest. He knew being in a relationship would mean exposing himself to someone, which he has still never done to anyone but Andy, it would mean that confrontation of his own body, which he has not seen unclothed in at least a decade even in the shower he doesn't look at himself, it would mean having seen with someone which he hasn't done since he was fifteen and which he dreads so completely that the thought of it makes his stomach fill with something waxy and cold. He thinks not having sex was one of the best thing about being an adult.

As much as he fears sex, he also want to be touched, he wants to feel someone else's hand on him although the thought of that terrifies him. Sometimes he examines his arms and is filled with a self hatred so fiery that he can barely breath ,much of what his body has become has been beyond his control, but his arms have been all his doing and he can only blame himself. When he had begun cutting himself, he cut on his legs- just the calves-and before he learned to be organized about how he applied them, he swiped the blade across the skin in hap hazard strokes, so it looked as if he had been scratched by a crosshatch of grasses. No one ever noticed- no one ever looks at a person's calves. Even Brother Luke doesn't bother him about them. Now no one could ever notice his arms, or his back, or his legs, which are stripped runnds where damaged tissue and muscle have been removed, and indentations the size of thumbprints, where the braces' screws had once been dilled through the flesh and into the bone and satiny pounds of skin where he had sustained burns in the injury, and the places where his wounds have closed over, where the flesh now creates slightly, the area around them tinkered a permanent dull bronze. When he has clothes on his skin, he is one person, but without them he is revealed as he really is, the years of rot manifested on his skin, his own flesh advertising his past, it's depravities and corruptions. All this came to his mind once more while thinking about a relationship.

Weeks have passed, Willem became more busy and his schedules were erratic. Jude went for a party at Rhode's new apartment. There he met Caleb Porter; he was a fashion designer by profession and very was very attractive and handsome. In the very first meeting itself Caleb was attracted to Jude, he was friend of Alex. Caleb was attracted to Jude and the very next day after the party he offered dinner for Jude, he joins Caleb for the dinner and the way back it rains and he drops him in the apartment, there he kissed Jude for the first time. Jude was shocked, his drastic childhood flashed

through his mind but he managed the situation, after a long time's kiss Jude was freed. Slowly their relationship turned into dating. Even though Jude was reluctant for having a relationship; the feeling of loneliness forces him to adjust with the situation. In Wednesdays and Thursdays Caleb comes to Jude's apartment and resides there and drives back to his office in Fridays. In the beginning everything was going on smooth, Caleb adjusted with Jude's hesitance to sex and a relationship but later everything changed upside down. Caleb doesn't like Jude's limbs and his usage of wheelchairs. Caleb tries to rape him. Jude doesn't want to have sex with him also he doesn't want Caleb to encounter with his body but Caleb adjusts with his body and touches his body very slowly and affectionately. Jude loved Caleb, he loved his solidity, physical strength, moves in his body, he feels like Caleb is entirely different from the people he has sought out his entire adult life. Caleb started hitting him. Jude never shared anything about their relationship to parents, friends and colleagues. Jude loved Caleb very much; he doesn't want to lose him so he adjusted with him and tried his maximum to please him. Jude stopped using wheelchairs and walked by his own in Caleb's presence. Jude become physically wounded and become very weak. He went to Andy for medical aid, Andy was happy because he had done any self harm but was very sad for injuries he had. Jude told Andy that his injuries were the result of wheelchair tennis that he practices. It was found that Jude was having initial stages of nerve damage. Jude started avoiding Caleb for the injuries he had made on him but Caleb needed Jude, he pushed him to the floor, hit on his back, beaten him, he never left any part of his body unbeaten. Caleb found pleasure and enjoyment in torturing Jude. Harold came to meet Jude, there he encounters with Caleb, from this he understands the nature of their relationship, he complaints to police and attempts to have Caleb arrested, though Jude refuses.

Jude was unable to escape from the tragedies he had undergone while he was in the relationship. Every time he thought about Caleb and he started self harming .Harold found out Jude deeply wounded, his shirt was having new and old blood stains and the floor of drawing room and bathroom were full of blood stains. Jude was very weak and was unconscious. He took him to Andy and informed him about the dangerous relationship he had. Andy treated him and took him to psychiatrist for counseling. Andy was very disappointed and angry for Caleb; this shows how much he loved Jude. Meantime Harold went to Jude's apartment Greene Street. He cleaned his rooms, cooked food and found out a bag of razors and other sharp things that he used to harm himself with, this Harold came to understand his self harming habit. He encountered about the reasons and found that he was sexually molested during his childhood days in the monastery and made necessary steps to further prevent this situation to happen. Harold nursed Jude with love and took care of him.

In another flashback, Jude reveals how Brother Luke groomed and coaxed him to leave the monastery. Brothers in the monastery started avoiding Jude, he was shocked because he doesn't know where to go if he is expelled from there, but among them Brother Luke treated him with love and care. Jude started spending more time with Luke. He gave surprises like muffins, flowers, toys, dolls etc. Luke told him that he is like a son to him and bribed him by telling about a life together in the woods and Jude longed for a life together. Luke makes all the arrangements to move out from the monastery and one night they both eloped from the monastery in Luke's car to Texas. They took a room there, made changes in their appearances, wore dresses like common people, had food and evening walks. For three days everything went good and pleasant. Luke pretended that he was not having any money buy a cabin in forest

for them to live in. Jude agreed to do any work he could to earn money for the cabin and at the age ten he forced into prostitution. Luke brought clients to the room and he watched them having sex with Jude from the bathroom. He never allowed anyone to kiss him, only he done this to Jude. For months this continued Jude started disliking Luke, he only agreed to this for earning money for the cabin, but Luke never had a plan to stop this prostitution and the result was that Jude was affected with STD. Luke never stopped this even after knowing about his disease. One day in Montana, the police raided the room to arrest Brother Luke, though he hangs himself before they can detain him. The police reveal that his real name was Edgar Wilmot.

Remembering his childhood Jude attempts to kill himself though he winds up in the hospital. Harold and Julia take him along with them and took care of him. Willem came back and stayed with Jude taking care of him. Jude was very happy for Willem's come back but he was nervous because he never informed him about Caleb, this disturbed him very much. He tried his maximum not to inform him anything about Caleb. Willem all ways cared for Jude even the fame and money doesn't reduced his love for him. He dropped his shooting plans to take care of Jude. Until Jude was able to do his works himself Willem stood with him in the same room. Jude also loves Willem but he was not ready to open up his past to him, this always remained a complex inside him.

By part five "The Happy Years" Willem is a world famous actor. Months have passed after Jude's suicidal attempt. Now Willem and Jude are together. Willem had busy schedules of work but he tried his best to spend time with him. Willem was not able find out what makes him more close to Jude. The friendship and love for Jude changed to something different. He started having a pensive mood while looking at Jude, but he controls everything because he knew Jude was someone different and he believed him completely. Kit, Willem's helper and mentor told Willem if you are happy and satisfied with Jude, you should proceed with it, this added his confidence in continuing a relationship with Jude. Andy also supported to have a relation with Jude and added upon that he should be careful while being in a relation with him because he needs someone to stand along with him, take him care off and also shouldn't force him to have sex. Finally Willem revealed his love to Jude; it was a big task for him because he doesn't know how he is going to react. Jude loved Willem but he doesn't want to have a relation with him because according to him Willem can have a better partner than him, he put an end to dilemma and decided to accept Willem as his partner. They announced this good news their friends and colleagues along with Jude's parents, all of them were happy for Jude and Willem but it was shocking news for JB, because he always had an interest for Willem, but he fell for Jude, this exhausted him very badly.

Jude was never interested in having sex and showing off his body even to his partner Willem, but he supported and gave him time enough time to make his mind prepared for a relation both physical and mental. Even though was supportive and caring Jude was not able to reconcile his experiences with Brother Luke and Caleb. He kissed Willem with opened eyes to make himself aware that he was with Willem, slowly Jude starts loving having sex with Willem and eventually he began to tell him about his past. Jude most hesitant to be without clothes, his attitude changes but after sometime he again started hurting himself. Willem cared him like a child and he was upset by Jude's self hurting. To make Jude understand how it feels on witnessing this, Willem cuts himself and with this Jude reveals much of his past to him thus they

reconciled and continue their relation. Willem went abroad for shooting, Jude was left alone and Willem's memories haunted him and he intentionally lights his arm on fire. The wounds were severe and this led to a conflict between Andy and Willem, and Willem demanded to know everything about his past life.

Jude tells Willem that after being freed from Brother Luke he was raped in foster care, after encountering with sexual abuse from the counselor in the foster care he ran away from there. This made him mentally sick and he started indulging in sex with each and every person in the streets, he is taken to a doctor named Taylor, Jude was kept in the basement of the house and was raped every night, he was not able to tolerate this physical torture and made an escape but it was not successful in the attempt. After several months of sexual encounters and torture doctor takes him to a field and makes him run ahead of his car. He falls and then runs, this accident was the reason behind his limbs. Jude tells Willem that he can no longer have sex with him and these results in Willem sleeping with other women. Jude's health becomes worse and he is forced onto wheelchair. During this time together Willem, Malcolm and his wife Sophie are killed in a car accident. This was a great shock for Jude.

By part six "Dear Comrade" Jude grows incredibly depressed. He stops eating food and began to sleep with Willem's shirts and started watching his movies reputedly and read emails and letters both of them had sent each other. JB attempts to reconcile his relationship with Jude, but Jude denies it. Jude became suicidal; Andy decided to take retirement from his profession but promises to be with him for all his needs. Harold and Julia is with Jude to care of Jude.

In the concluding part of the novel a narration by Harold reveals that, Jude has suicide at the age of 53. JB is the only one left and his situation is also traumatized by the death of his friends.

A core focus of the novel is the evolution of the relationship between Jude, Willem, JB, Malcolm and Jude's adoptive parents Harold and Julia. The social and emotional life of each male character was the failure that weaves the novel together, creating an insular narrative bubble, they provides few clues about the historical moment in which the story is situated.

The novel lacks women characters, most of the central characters are males, there are only few characters namely Ana, Sophie, Robin, Rosie, Agnes, Julia, Edie Kim, Francesca and Marta. Out of these ten women characters only Ana and Julia had some sort of importance in the novel. Edie Kim, Marta and Francesca are three lesbians who were their suitemates in the university, they are not having any importance in the novel, they are just introduced in the novel to portray a party episode. Sophie is Malcolm's girlfriend; there is only few episodes where she appears in the novel. Philippa and Robin were Willem's girlfriends; both of the relations were not successful. Philippa was a fashion designer and their relation lasted only for few years. She needed Willem to surrender himself before, this never happened and they broke up, keeping this a side she was good looking lady, well educated, self employed and she maintains a good friend circle. there is no much information provided regarding her and their relationship. Rosie and Agnes were two fosters who stood along with Jude while he was in treatment after the accident. Girls were young, Rosie was eight and she was affected with Down syndrome, Agnes was nine and she was diagnosed with Spine Bifida.

What makes the book's treatment of abuse and suffering subversive is that it does not offer any possibility of redemption and deliverance beyond the tender moments. It gives us a moral salvation in which spiritual salvation of this sort doesn't exist. None of the Jude's tormentors are ever termed evil by him or anyone else. During his year of suffering, only once we are told Jude prays to a god he didn't believe in. Though he is named after the patron's saint of lost causes- the name given to him by the monks who raised him- what's the most obviously lost here is the promise of spiritual absolution or even psychological healing. In this godless world, friendship is the only solace available to any of us.

The novel's depiction of abuse is vital for understanding the character of Jude, for not only does Jude undergo years of extreme physical, sexual and emotional abuse, but the chronology of these abuses determine how deeply formative they are for his psyche. He was raised in a monastery and he had leaved their until he was eight and there he suffered austere and desperate forms of abuse. Two forms of abuse which he faced include physical and emotional abuse. They hit him with whatever they could find, they called him a monster, he was made to work hard in the kitchen from cutting vegetables to cooking and even cleaning kitchen and plates, he was in charge of a gardener at times, besides these tortures they even wished for his death. He was treated as a slave, even a small mistake from his side is taken as big crime and was punished brutally. Taking this a side we are able to understand that Jude was physically abused by several men in the monastery. Every night he was forcefully brought to the room of monastery's head, he was abused their by members in the monastery. This destroyed him emotionally and physically and this resulted in worsening his physical health, he even started wetting his bed. Later he was raped by Brother Luke and he forced him into prostitution. The continuous sexual intercourse with several people pushed Jude in to the hands of Sexually Transmitted Diseases(STDs). After being freed from Luke he was raped in the foster care. Encountering with several abuse with the councilor there he slipped into mental disorder and depression this resulted in losing his control over mind and body and he started having sex with everyone he found on the streets. From there he was taken to a doctor named Taylor, he was not safe their too, he was kept in the basement of his apartment and tortured mentally and physically every night. After months of torture and abuse Jude was bought out and made to run ahead of his car, this resulted in Jude's limbs. After years of loneliness Caleb comes to his life, this was another episode of torture and abuse in his life. He hits him and abused brutally. The mental, physical and emotional abuse is a constant idea that revolves around the novel throughout.

The persecution and emotional torture which Jude has undergone resulted in depression. Jude always felt lonely along with that he longed for a partner too and this lead to a relationship with Caleb, this unhappy relationship again pushed him into a more vulnerable stage of depression. The despondency which was caused by the death of Willem had the worst effect in Jude. He stopped taking food, watched Willem's movies and interviews continuously overnight, kept reading letters and emails that they have send each other and started sleeping with Willem's dresses. JB was also a victim of depression, the cause of his sadness was his loneliness and broken friendship with Jude. Everyone feels sad or irritable and has trouble sleeping once in a while. But these feelings and troubles usually pass after a couple of days. Depression is a common but serious mood disorder that may cause severe symptoms. Depression affects the ability to feel, think, and handle daily activities. Also known as major

depressive disorder or clinical depression, a man must have symptoms for at least two weeks to be diagnosed with depression.

The childhood and adolescence which was full of sexual, physical and psychological abuse, continue to hurt Jude even when he was in the adulthood. The trauma affected his mental and physical health, his relationships, beliefs and the ways in which he move around. His unhappy past and limbs haunted Jude throughout his future, he was conscious about his body and attire too and was also hesitant to open up his body and mind even to his close ones, this dislike caused the breakup of friendship between JB too. The tribulations that happened in his life even prevented him from engaging in a sexual intercourse too. Whenever Willem kissed Jude the episode of monstrous past came to his mind and this resulted in clashers between them . He kept his eyes opened while kissing to make himself aware that he is with Willem. He never enjoyed having sex, Jude was in mental trauma, he was done with loneliness, he longed for a companion but was not ready to accept a partner and the results of a relationship, he wanted to be touched but was hesitant to open up his body to his partner to be touched. Along with this the relation with Caleb added unhappiness to his life and this resulted in a hard physical trauma in his life.

Whenever the grotesque childhood foams up his mind Jude loses control over his body and mind, he attempts to take control over his body and his emotions by self harming. Hanya has very efficiently portrayed several episodes of self harm with at most clarity. Jude hid a bag full off sharp items in the bathroom under the wash place to make cuts in his body. He cut his body very deeply and blood flew from his body in huge amount. His hands were full of wound marks, the continuous injuries resulted in health issues and nervous breakdown, which made him dependent as the years past, towards the end of the novel he was using wheelchairs, canes and relying on the care of others.

Hanya had made core focus on male relationships, the novel can be considered as the combination of romantic love friendship and relationships among men. Their are different kinds of male relationships in the novel. Harold and Jude had a father son relation. Harold shows a father's unconditional love towards Jude, he stood with him whenever he needed him, took care of him, hosted parties for him, loved and cared him as much as he could. The bond of friendship among the four characters Jude, Willem, Malcolm and JB. They were together since their college time, their occurred quarels that was normal in all friendships. The novels darkness is leavened by it's portrayal of Jude's friends, whose attempts to care for him inevitably recall the communities of care formed by LGBT people in response to AIDs crisis. Each of Jude's friends cares for him differently, uniquely: Malcolm by designing spaces that will accommodate his disability, JB by painting portraits kinder than the eye alone would see, Willem by being a person to whom he can tell his entire history. They make innumerable accommodations to Jude's daily needs, in periods of crisis they monitor him, making sure he eats and doesn't harm himself. The book vigorously defends friendship as a primary relationship, as central as marriage to the making of lives and communities. The relationship between Willem and Jude was complicated, the friendship between them turned out to be a love relationship. Malcolm too cared for Jude he was with him always helping him around to have a better life. JB was interested in having a love relation with Jude than having friendship. Besides these pleasant relationships Jude was surrounded by some unpleasant relations too. Despite various iterations of relationships and attempts to connect with Jude, his existence is

often dealt with isolation and loneliness in dealing with the trauma and pain. He attempts to cope up with the loneliness and isolation and the result was relation with Caleb but that was not a successful one. The flashback to his abusive experience with Dr Taylor, Brother Luke and boy's home councilors demonstrate the moral and affective extremes of abuse and exploitation that he experiences.

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