

'Never Let Me Go' by Alex Garland

MISS LUCY: I don't think I can keep silent anymore. If no one else will talk to you, I will.

The problem is that you have been told, and not told. That is what I've seen while I've been here. You have been told, but none of you really understand. So I've decided I'll talk to you in a way that you *will* understand.

Do you know what happens to children when they grow up?

No - you don't. Because nobody knows. They might grow up to become actors, and move to America. Or they might work in supermarkets, or teach in schools. They might become sportsmen, or bus conductors, or racing car drivers. They might do almost anything.

But with you, we do know. None of you will go to America. None of you will work in supermarkets. None of you will do anything, except live out the life that has already been set out for you.

You will become adults, but only briefly. Before you are old, before you are even middle-aged, you will start to donate your vital organs. That's what you were created to do. And some time around your third or fourth donation, your short life will be complete.

You have to know who you are, and what you are. It's the only way you'll lead decent lives.

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