

DOCILE BODIES

CRITICAL RESPONSE: LUCY CLIFFORD

Can we recognise injustice if we have never been given the words to describe it?

Docile Bodies is a critical response that explores this unsettling question through Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go* and *Klara and the Sun*, two novels populated by characters who live inside deeply exploitative systems yet rarely imagine resisting them. From organ harvesting disguised as "donation" to genetic modification softened into "lifting", Ishiguro transforms ordinary, reassuring language into something far more sinister.

Drawing on philosophy, politics and theories of power, *Docile Bodies* investigates how language can do more than hide uncomfortable truths: it can teach us how to understand them. The work moves beyond Ishiguro's fictional worlds to ask a troublingly contemporary question about our own world. When governments, institutions and societies choose the words through which reality is described, how much of what feels like our own judgement is really ours?