

APPENDICES

Synopsis of *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

Nineteen Eighty-Four is set in the fictional state of Oceania, in the year 1984. Oceania is ruled by the Party with Big Brother as its figurehead. Winston Smith, whose job is to alter historical records in accordance to the Party's actions and purposes, is a member of the Outer Party. However, he is secretly questioning the validity of the Party and its doctrines.

As the story progresses, Winston finds himself falling in love with a woman named Julia. This leads to a series of affairs between the two of them, each wanting to defy the Party in his or her own way. Together they decide to talk to O'Brien, an Inner Party member who seems to be involved in the Brotherhood, an underground rebel organization. However, this turns out to be a trap because O'Brien is actually an agent of the Party.

Winston and Julia are captured and brought to the Ministry of Love. There, Winston meets O'Brien who tortures him and tries to 'correct' his thinking. He is also taken to Room 101, where he has to confront his greatest fear—rats. Winston loses the battle when panic and terror drive him to tell O'Brien to unleash them on Julia instead of him. Having betrayed her, he is then released.

Winston is now living his life as a new man, completely loyal to the Party and Big Brother. He does what everyone does and never thinks about going against the Party again. The Party has won.

Synopsis of *Brave New World*

Brave New World is set approximately six hundred years in the future. The dystopian world presented in the novel is ruled by a rigid caste system—from Alpha, the highest, to Epsilon, the lowest. Humans are not only biologically engineered, but also psychologically conditioned to fit certain roles in a specific caste. There is also a drug called *soma* to ensure that no one ever feels unhappy.

The first half of the novel follows the story of Bernard Marx, an Alpha-Plus who is physically inferior compared to other men in his caste. This makes him bitter and disgruntled, until one day, the beautiful Lenina Crowne agrees to date him. They go for a vacation in the Savage Reservation in New Mexico, where there are people still living in an almost primitive manner. In the reservation, they meet John the Savage, the son of Linda, a Beta who was accidentally left behind during an expedition to the reservation many years ago.

John agrees to return to the civilised world with Bernard, and this 'discovery' gives Bernard the fame he has always wanted. John, on the other hand, is disappointed by what he sees in the new world. He denies and rebels against everything, including *soma* and his overwhelming passion for Lenina. His mother's death further increases his anger and later he is captured and questioned by Mustapha Mond, one of the Ten World Controllers. Afterwards, John chooses to live alone in a lighthouse outside the city, but the appearance of a crowd making a spectacle out of his life causes him to explode into rage. In the chaos which follows, he unintentionally consumes *soma* and is drawn unwillingly into a sexual orgy. The next day, John realises what he has done and, unable to live with the knowledge, commits suicide by hanging himself.

Biography of George Orwell

Eric Arthur Blair, who used the penname George Orwell, was born in Motihari, India, on June 25, 1903. One year after his birth, he went back to England with his mother and sister. His father, a British civil servant, remained in India. Orwell's first formal education was at St. Cyprian, a boarding school in Eastbourne, where he experienced the rigidity and discrimination of English class system. He later earned a scholarship to Wellington College and Eton College, where he continued his education.

After a short career in the Indian Imperial Police, Orwell lived in self-imposed poverty for several years before participating in the Spanish Civil War with his wife, Eileen O'Shaughnessy. Wounded in the war, he returned to England and began his writing career as a freelance for many small publications. During this period, he wrote many essays, reviews, and documentaries. Later, he began to develop a reputation for his well-crafted literary criticism.

Orwell is most well-known for two of his novels, *Animal Farm* (1945) and *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949), both reflecting his deep-rooted distrust to autocratic government and proved to be huge successes for the author. However, not long after *Nineteen Eighty-Four* was published, Orwell finally succumbed to tuberculosis from which he had been suffering for the last three years of his life. He died on January 21, 1950, in a London Hospital.

Sources: "George Orwell", "George Orwell Biography", Ritter

Biography of Aldous Huxley

Aldous Leonard Huxley, born in Godalming, Surrey on July 26, 1894 was the author of *Brave New World*. He came from a family of intellectuals and literary figures. His father was a teacher, editor, and biographer, while his mother was the niece of Matthew Arnold, a British poet, and one of his aunts was also a novelist.

Huxley studied at Eton College, Berkshire from 1908 to 1913. When he was sixteen, Huxley experienced an eighteen-month period of total blindness due to an attack of *keratitis punctata*. Later his condition improved, and by wearing special glasses and learning Braille, he was able to continue his education at Balliol College, Oxford, and earn a B.A. in English.

Huxley was a prolific writer. He published a dozen books in eight years, starting with his first novel, *Crome Yellow* (1921). Throughout his writing careers, he experimented in many different genres. His notable works other than *Brave New World* (1931) are the novels *Point Counter Point* (1928) and *Island* (1962), two volumes of essays, *The Art of Seeing* (1942) and *The Doors of Perception* (1954), and a book on philosophy, *The Perennial Philosophy* (1945), which is often credited as one of the early pillars of transpersonal theory. Other than novels, he also wrote travel books, histories, and plays.

Huxley died in Los Angeles on November 22, 1963.

Source: "Aldous Huxley", Lombardi, "Transpersonal Pioneers: Aldous Huxley"