



Psychoanalysis of Child abuse and Treachery in "A Little Life" by Hanya Yanagihara

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Abstract

This article examines a wide range of creative conservative explanations for social inequality. Child labor is one of the oldest issues that continues to exist today. Child laborers were compelled to work in urban factories during that time, which contributed to the outcome of the Industrial Revolution. Child abuse is a severe issue that hinders children's emotional, sexual, and physical development. The youngster may suffer severe, permanent psychological harm as a result of these problems. A Little Life (2015) by Hanya Yanagihara examines the problematic framework of trauma theory. Jude, the main character, was sexually abused as a youngster, and the terrible consequences are depicted as a self-harming adult in this divergent story. A Little Life is undoubtedly a tiresome, verbose, and incredibly gloomy book that also portrayed the lives of working-class and impoverished children. The treatment of orphans in the contemporary world and how it destroys their lives are the primary goals of this essay. Additionally, it draws attention to A Little Life's topics, storytelling styles, and tactics. Thus, this essay aims to examine the book A Little Life from the standpoint of trauma. Furthermore, it examines the trauma ideologies that can be examined in relation to the notions of child abuse.

Individual and social identities are shaped by psychological trauma and its language manifestations, according to trauma research. Additionally, it intentionally includes spirits, emotions, and a singular event or experience. Furthermore, trauma in psychoanalysis entails significant, long-term negative values. Even so, this branch of study was founded by Sigmund Freud himself. A number of social issues, including the

prevalence of violence against women and children, such as rape and aggressive betrayal, gave rise to trauma theory in the 1960s. However, his propensity for exceptional storytelling diverted him from a study of the effects of traumatic experiences on people. Their personal experiences have a major impact on trauma, and it also alters one's thoughts about the future by causing them to lose hope and have low expectations for their life. Trauma theory also looks into chronic pain, disability, and day-to-day living with trauma.

In addition to allowing for heightened awareness of terrible situations like rape, war, slavery, oppression, and racism, child abuse plays a significant role in causing a silent fear that splits or destroys identity and influences the emotional reaction of the mind brought on by a traumatic incident. Numerous severe injuries, sexual assault, life-threatening situations, and ongoing maltreatment are all considered forms of trauma. American novelist Hanya was born in Los Angeles in 1975. She is the author of three books, the most recent of which, *A Little Life*, won both the 2015 Kirkus Prize for Fiction and the 2015 Man Booker Prize.

Hanya wanted his book to combine elements of fairy tales and realistic literature. It establishes the thought-provoking context of trauma theory. The tragic consequences of the life-threatening depiction of sexual abuse during Jude's early years are addressed in *A Little Life*. It is undoubtedly tiresome, overwritten, and incredibly depressing to lead a small existence.

In *Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative, and History* (Caruth 3), Cathy Caruth examines the significant impact that trauma has on the relationships and lives of orphan children. Her research explores the idea that psychological trauma deals with the mental experience of time, self, and the world since trauma is forced on the mind rather than the body. The majority of her works as an American author address topics of oppression, child abuse, deprivation, and the subjugation of those who are dominated. Memories of persons who had escaped from child maltreatment and orphanages made up a significant portion of *A Little Life*. The profound empathy and distinct outlook on life of orphans in society are the subject of *A Little Life*. It is essentially a story about how child abuse causes anguish to the victim and destroys the criminal justice system, particularly for orphans, as no one can ever know what another person has been through in life.

Hanya recalls the sexual assault and pain that intersect with another person's life. One of the greatest and best-selling books in American literature is *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara, which tackles a number of contemporary societal issues. Hanya learns about the lives of child orphans via the craft

of writing. She created a colorful portrayal of the genuine culture of the American orphan by reworking all of their experiences.

She discovered that although the orphans battled for independence and justice, the children also sought love and dignity, and they suffered from child maltreatment. Four friends—Malcolm, JB, Willem, and Jude—with varying backgrounds and personalities are at the center of the narrative. Jude doesn't reveal anything about himself. He is successful, adored by many, and nuanced and delicate, but he chooses to remain silent. Despite the fact that Jude and Willem have a lovely bond, Jude's background is still unknown and mysterious, even to his friends. As the story goes on, Jude's history tries to choke him, and he is rescued by Willem, Harold, Julia, Andy, Ana, and countless more amazing people.

The life and sexual awakening in New York City are depicted by Hanya in a striking manner. This childhood occurrence tore apart the narrative of life, and Hanya recounted it from Jude's and their friends' points of view. Hanya handles the subject of childhood abuse, which Jude survived, in a sensible and considerate manner. Sociologists have been using the framework to examine and explain the nature of inequality in the areas of slavery and discrimination more and more in recent decades.

As a result, the orphans are susceptible to mental health issues, poor health, and low well-being, without a doubt, this book is really sad, overdone, and exhausting. Every human being is deserving of love, according to this book. Some delicate souls, like Jude, are used to living in a toxic environment and firmly believe that they deserve to be treated painfully and to be around toxic people, but Hanya shows them that their assumptions were incorrect by penning this captivating work, "A Little Life." Hanya makes a strong contribution to our discussion by bringing up the various tidbits of child abuse. Jude's terrible past causes him to cut himself on a regular basis. Monks fostered him during his early years and, at worst, sexually assaulted him, leaving him psychologically and physically crippled. Hanya successfully conveys a nuanced message regarding self-identity and sexual politics. Jude is shown as weak and defenseless in this book.

While childhood is defined as the absence of adulthood, orphans in "A Little Life" are Not even human. They were no longer able to assist because of the abuse they experienced as children. Thus, the individuality of orphans is lost. Unlike Jude's persona, Hanya experiences some existential problems. Jude personally wonders if their life are meaningful or purposeful. Jude experienced trauma at a very young age,

demonstrating the devastating effects of child maltreatment on society. Sometimes people's lives are solely focused on their psychological states. Jude endures all of life's hardships as an orphan.

This book illustrates the social impact by detailing Jude's childhood abuse, which left him with severe trauma, despair, and anxiety. It also follows Willem, Jb, and Malcolm as they interact with one another in their respective lives. The fact that the four spend time together further demonstrates their close bond. Therefore, their love for one another is evident, but Jude is unable to disclose his history or present mental health. Every time his friends attempt to approach him, his mind returns to the time when monks sexually, mentally, and physically mistreated him.

A Little Life is a work in dialogue with *Odyssey*, as the author demonstrates. In *Odyssey*, sexual assault and abuse are also major themes. Hanya makes an effort to bring up Jude's secret history. In *A Little Life*, the hardships of an orphanage are presented, together with the anguish of sexual molestation and a traditional defense of social injustice. Trauma studies indicate that societal impact is significant; similarly, characters are afraid to confront society, and Jude, the main character, makes a concerted effort to hide his early memories. One of the greatest works of contemporary American literature is *A Little Life*. The topic of child abuse, which has long been subtly controlled by the human mind, is also covered in social concerns.

The author of *A Little Life* skillfully depicts all the situations and issues that the children face in their status as orphans, while also interpreting the characters of child abuse in youngsters. The concepts of discrimination and treachery are presented throughout the book. The notion that child abuse and children might cause more harm and suffering for individuals rather than bringing them prosperity is one that her book challenges the reader to consider. The book expressed some strong, forceful, and widespread opinions against the actual pain caused by child abuse. Readers find Hanya's character descriptions more realistic, which is demonstrated by their empathy for the characters. She also purposefully did this in her second book.

In any circumstance, the reader may share the characters' laughter and tears. Throughout his profession, *Oliver Twist* also seen child abuse. Additionally, he talks on treachery that impacts the past, present, and future. Although the novel starts off lightheartedly, the plot revolves around the betrayal of child abuse as it goes along.

The entire plot centers on the events that occurred in the orphanages, portraying the actual and more amazing battle of children who have been abused as children. Psychoanalysis, which examines how personalities like Jude evolve throughout time, is another way to examine *A Little Life*. The novel elaborates on the conscious and unconscious. All these conscious activities, according to Freud, emerge in an unexpected way. According to Freud, people's unconscious desires and fears—of which they are not consciously aware—determine their conduct. Hanya illustrates how child abuse is stigmatized, ruled, oppressed, and ostracized in American culture in her book *A Little Life*. Even though the 18th century saw the abolition of child betrayal, orphans are nevertheless quietly disturbed by upper-class persons in the 21st century.

Work Cited

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