

Humanities ¾

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How's Life

There are many people that would say I'm not ready to die but what if you weren't really alive? There aren't many humans that are considered optimistic, some would argue there is no such thing as true optimism. In both *The Girl With All The Gifts* by M.R. Carey and *Carousel* by Orson Scott Card, both chose to emphasize two opposing sides, one being pessimism well the other optimism. Both stories attempt one or the other, it carries the pilot either destroying or unifying a group or family.

In both *The Girl With All The Gifts* and *Carousel* Melanie and Alice are dead while still being alive. In *The Girl With All The Gifts* Melanie decide to use her ability to walk amongst the hungries to help the group survive. While in *Carousel* Alice chose to show how amazing it is to be dead, since you get to do whatever you want " She talked Delia into jumping from a bridge without actually attaching any bungee cords to her feet"(pg. 38) resulting in her children killing themselves.

In *The Girl With All The Gifts* Melanie faces different but very real obstacles in which she has to decide if she will stay while possibly endangering the only person she sees to have grown to love. However she decided to leave with Miss.Justineau and the group just keeping herself at a safe distance to insure that she won't hurt anyone. Even when she was in her cell she was hopeful for another Miss.Justineau day. She knew that was the best she would be able to get

so she cherished the moments she could get “It’s Tuesday obviously and more important than that, it’s a Miss. Justineau day”(pg.31). This quote shows how even when Melanie was in her cell being tested on she was still trying to find the best in everything.

While Alice was trying to convince Cyril to kill himself “Don’t think of it as death,/ My eternal life you mean” (pg.37-38). Alice was pessimistic her whole life she always thought the worst especially of Cyril. That is a terrible way to live, how do you strive to do better if you never thought it was good in the first place? How do you stay motivated, you only have one life and when Alice died she took 2 more with her.

On the other hand Melanie risk her life for the group and Dr. Caldwell even after she tried to dissect Melanie “She threads her way carefully through the hungries, unnoticed, unmolested”(pg. 234). Melanie was the optimistic one the one that would hope for the best or try to act like it was going to be ok. That is the way to live always trying to see the best, maybe some days it will be frustrating because things didn’t turnout exactly the way you wanted to but at least you will believe everything will be ok at the end of the day.

In conclusion, life or death is so different with just a change of attitude. In optimism there is hope and happiness, in pessimism there is nothing. Sometimes you just have to remember not every day is a good day but there is always something good in everyday.