

English Book Report

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0.1 Book Info.

Title: REPLAY

Author: KEN GRIMWOOD

0.2 Report

0.2.1 Plot

Jeff Winston, a forty-three-year-old news director, has been living a life saturated with dissatisfaction, loss of ambition and hope. With an unhappy marriage in addition to the discontentment of his life, Jeff has given up hope and has convinced himself he will never live up to his life goals and dreams. On 18 October 1988¹, at 13:06, Jeff was talking on the phone with his manipulative wife in his office when he felt something pounding his chest with great force. A heart attack, he thought. Though he knew his death is coming, he was not afraid, for his life sucked and he didn't want to deal with it any more. He blacked out, waiting as his death slowly approached, along with tremendous pain he had never felt in his entire life.

After what felt like an eternity, he was awake, still alive, revived. But he now is not in his office, nor the hospital, but in his college dorm room. The date is 6 May 1963. He had basically been revived from his death and got sent back to when he was 18 years old. At first, Jeff was very upset that he didn't get to actually die and never face his troubles ever again. But on second thoughts, he realised none of the misfortune of his "previous" life has happened yet. He could relive his regrets and have another shot. When he was 43 for the second time, he died at the exact same time due to a heart attack again. He revived; no longer in his dorm room, but in a car. He later figured out after every "replay" of his life, his time of revival is pushed forward in time.

A lot of "replays" later, he met Pamela, another "replay-er". They quickly fell in love with each other. After a lot of experimentation, they figured out a way to consistently meet each other after

¹The original book has 1888 as the year. But according to the overall story plot, it is believed to be a typo.

each "replay". They proceeded to take advantage of their knowledge of the future to win lotteries, predict stock markets. Jeff also managed to save his college dorm roommate from suicide. Jeff and Pamela lived happily until they realised the revival time is pushing forward increasingly faster, meaning they had less and less time to live each "replay".

Eventually they both revived just a few days before their deaths. Jeff felt fulfilled, having finally relived all his regrets; he was ready for his real final death. When the time came, he was stuck in a perpetual loop of death and revival. The clock at his desk never struck past 13:06. For hours, he can only feel his heart pounding heavily, his sweat, and his lack of breath. Until the revival time pasted 13:06.

0.2.2 Reflection

This book has an interesting plot, to say the least. Ken Greenwood granted the protagonist a power many crave to have- the ability to relive their regrets and reconsider life decisions with the possible futures in mind. However, I see this power as a curse more than a blessing. It is undeniable that I had once craved for this kind of reality-bending power; however, being forced to relive your own life over and over is tedious, difficult, and hell-like. In my opinion, regrets are to be learned from. Something is best left in the past. Once one has the power to reconsider their lives with virtually no consequences, they may cause mayhem trying to probe every single possibility in order to find the best one, although the one they already had has nothing wrong. This can result in a person getting increasingly greedy, wanting more and more.

What I have learned from this book is to consider every move carefully: to minimize regrets, to make sure it is the best option for oneself. Despite the efforts, regrets there be nonetheless. Some might choose to rant about it over and over as if it is going to help in the slightest; some learn from them and try not to make the same mistakes. You only live once, even as a "replay-er", life can and will manage to funnel them to the same destination: death. As seen in Jeff, he was at the verge of suicide but later realises his life could have had way more potential had he paid attention to his

decisions. However, instead of waiting for such power, whichever curse or blessing, to descend from the clouds upon you, do what you must and what you think suits you the most. You only live once. Make it count.