

“Gregory”

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Glossary:

Flashback --- A flashback is an interjected scene that takes the narrative back in time from the current point in the story. Flashbacks are often used to recount events that happened before the story's primary sequence of events to fill in crucial backstory.

“Stockholm” Syndrome --- The Stockholm syndrome is a syndrome that is named after an actual incident in 1978 where a bank employee became romantically attached to a robber that captured her. This syndrome also occurs in the story Gregory by the friendship between Gregory and the captors. Gregory is emotionally attached to the captors and trust them, which causes him refusing to leave the situation that he is put in, due to his trust. His refusal led him to his execution, but the captor’s emotional attachment on him led to their actions of giving him no further shame by digging a grave and choosing not to perform the previous objectives.

Background info:

- The story of Gregory takes place in the late 1950s, when Cyprus is fighting for British Liberation.
- The characters feel their country is forcing them to kill people because they are trying to become completely free
- The name “Gregory” of the story stands for the meaning for watchful or alert, which is just opposite to the behaviors whom Gregory expressed in the story.

Interpretation (Why?):

The story of Gregory is written because the author wanted to suggest the opinion that in wars, many humans often lose their humanity because of the fact that they lost someone close to them. People in a time of desperation listen to their emotions more than reasoning which can cause them to do an action that goes against their own morals. Most People would go against their own beliefs and loyalties because they’re afraid to die. After the war, many people face challenges that affect their life substantially. War dehumanizes many people with traumas, from killing others to save themselves, and form the feelings that leave people with ultimate despair.

Statement of theme:

No matter what desperate condition you are in, always trust your moral reasoning before you take your actions, never let your desperate emotions push you into doing things that you don’t want to do.

Explanation

Character (Who?):

- Gregory (protagonist): Gregory is the main character of the story, he was initially a soldier who fights for the opposing side, but was captured by the narrator. He then Befriended the narrator and the soldiers that captured him as he told stories about his hometown and about his story with a girl that he admires in his hometown. He often

does work for the soldiers, and considered them as friends and trusted them. He was executed by the narrator when the narrator's commander gave him the order to kill him.

- Narrator (antagonist): As the story is told in a first person view, the narrator is one of the main characters in the story. He is one of the soldiers fighting for the liberty of cyprus and that captured the captive "Gregory". He befriended Gregory and after the commander's orders him to kill gregory, he still gave some opportunities for Gregory to escape, but underestimates Gregory's trust on him and his fellow soldiers. He was finally put to execute Gregory believing that there were no other choice left for him.
- Soldiers: The soldiers are the soldiers that are on the same side with the narrator in the story, their actions are mostly represented by the narrator's actions and feelings. At the last part of the story the narrator convinced them to dig a grave for Gregory instead of hanging him to the crowd.

Point of view (Who tells?) :

- The narrator of the story is actually one of the major characters of the novel, though the name of the story is called Gregory, it is actually written in a first-person description, which the story is merely based on his observations, feelings and actions. His character is put in as one of the soldiers that live with the captive Gregory.
- The narrator knows about as much as the common knowledge that a normal soldier would have, he knows about the character Gregory throughout many conversations he had with him, where he befriended Gregory. His experiences are always connected to execution, and he had described his feelings of coldheartedness as an executioner at the beginning of the story, which is illustrated by a flashback illustration.
- Throughout the description, the narrator has shown a lot of bias in the story when he is illustrating the events and his feelings throughout them. His biases are represented by his desperation and the motivation of his thoughts which makes some of his actions seeming unreasonable.

Setting (Where and when?):

- The story of Gregory takes place in the late 1950s, when Cyprus is fighting for British Liberation.
- It could be represented by universal time since this kind of story could happen in various wartime events.
- It is set in Cyprus which is an island in between Egypt and Turkey

Plot (What?):

- Flashback: The narrator, in his memory, describes about the various captives he had executed during the war and his coldblooded ness.
- Initial incident: Gregory was captured by the narrator and his fellow soldiers
- Rising action Gregory was befriended by the narrator because of his stories and his kind nature
- Climax: The narrator receives the order from headquarters to execute and hang Gregory
- Falling action: The narrator gave Gregory various chances to escape but he chose not to

- Surprise ending: The narrator killed Gregory but chose to dig a grave and bury him instead of hanging him to the crowd