

**Realism And Beyond Realism: A Post-Apocalyptic Study on
George Clooney's *The Midnight Sky* and Lily Brook Dalton's
*Good Morning, Midnight***

Dissertation

*Submitted to the University of Calicut in partial fulfilment of the requirement for The award
of Degree of Master of Arts in English Language and Literature*

BY

ABNA P K

AIAVMEG001

**Under the Guidance of
JAMEELATHU K A
Assistant Professor**

PG and Research Department of English



*The PG Department of English
M E S Asmabi College, P Vemballur
Kodungallur, Thrissur
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Place :

Dr. REENA MOHAMMED

Date :

Head of the Department

PG and Research Department of English

M.E.S Asmabi College, P. Vemballur

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Place :

JAMEELATHU K A

Date :

Supervising Teacher

PG & Research Department of English

M.E.S Asmabi College, P. Vemballur

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Place : P.Vemballur

ABNA P K

Date :

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The world remains an awe-inspiring and mysterious place, full of beauty, wonders and complexity. And its inevitable nature reminds us of our own mortality and the impermanence of all things, while this can be a source of inspiration and motivation to live fully in the present moment.

The world is so far a reality or an existential place where the people tend to believe around or live in accordance with them. The realistic phase of the world refers to a period in which there is an emphasis on representing the world as it is, rather than as it could or should be. This approach can be seen in a wide range of fields, including literature, art, politics and economics.

In literature, the realistic phase is characterised by a focus on representing everyday life, often with an emphasis on social and political issues. Realistic literature seeks to capture the nuances of human experience and the complexities of the world around us, and often uses everyday language and situation to do so. Realist writers rejected the romantic and idealised portrayals of life that were popular at the time and instead sought to depict the struggles and realities of ordinary people. This often involved detailed descriptions of mundane activities, such as work and domestic life, and a focus on the social and economic conditions of the time.

In art, the realistic phase is characterised by an emphasis on representing the physical world as accurately as possible. This approach can be seen in a wide range of artistic movements, from the Renaissance to the modern day. Realistic art often seeks to capture the beauty and complexity of the natural world, and to represent people and objects in a way that is true to life.

In politics and economics, the realistic phase is characterised by a focus on pragmatism and practicality. Realistic politics seeks to address the challenges of the world as they are, rather than as they should be, and often involves compromise and negotiation to achieve progress. Realistic economics similarly seeks to understand and address the economic realities of the world, rather than relying on idealistic or theoretical models.

Realism is a broad concept that encompasses a wide range of artistic and literary movements across different time periods and cultural contexts. At its core, Realism is an artistic and literary approach that seeks to represent the world as it is, without idealisation or romanticization. This often involves a focus on everyday life, ordinary people, and mundane situations, and a rejection of the fantastical or mythic. Realism can be seen as a response to earlier artistic and literary movements that focused on idealised or romanticised representations of the world, such as Romanticism or Neoclassicism.

Realism can be traced back to the mid-19th century, when a group of French writers and artists began to reject the prevailing artistic and literary styles of their time in favour of a more honest and direct representation of reality. This movement, known as Realism, quickly spread across Europe and the United States, and had a profound impact on the development of modern art and literature. Realism can also be seen as a precursor to other artistic and literary movements that sought to represent the world in more realistic and authentic ways, such as Naturalism, Social Realism, and Regional Realism.

Realism is a complex and multifaceted concept that has been explored in a variety of artistic and literary contexts. Whether through painting, literature, film, or other forms of artistic expression, Realism continues to be a powerful tool for representing and engaging with the world around us.

We can imagine the real world to an extent with certain impracticalities, that's how the very imagination and Realism are interrelated, Realism and imagination are two concepts

that are often seen as opposing or contradictory, but they are closely intertwined and interdependent. Realism is the representation of reality as it is, while imagination is the ability to create mental images and ideas that go beyond what currently exists.

In literature, Realism often involves the depiction of everyday life and the complexities of human experience. This accurate representation of reality can provide a foundation for imagination to take hold, allowing writers to explore different possibilities and scenarios that are not necessarily based on reality. Imagination can add a layer of creativity and new ideas to the realistic depiction of the world, allowing writers to push the boundaries of what is possible.

Similarly, in art, Realism involves the accurate representation of the physical world, while imagination can add new elements and ideas to create a unique and compelling piece of art. Realism can provide a foundation for the imagination to take hold, allowing artists to push beyond the boundaries of what is immediately visible and explore new possibilities.

In everyday life, Realism and imagination are also closely intertwined. Realistic thinking involves understanding the world as it is, while imaginative thinking involves envisioning new possibilities and exploring new ideas. Realistic thinking can inform imaginative thinking by providing a foundation for understanding the current state of the world, while imaginative thinking can inform realistic thinking by generating new ideas and possibilities for the future.

The relationship between Realism and imagination is one of interdependence and mutual influence. Realism provides a foundation for understanding the world as it is, while imagination allows us to envision new possibilities and explore new ideas beyond what currently exists. Together, they can provide a powerful framework for understanding the world and pushing the boundaries of what is possible.

Meanwhile, the imagination creates other realms of possibilities, which plays a major role in shaping the *future*, although it's not assured, it could be practical one way or another. Imagination and the future are closely related because the future is essentially the realm of possibility and potential, where things that do not yet exist can be imagined and brought into being. Imagination involves the ability to create mental images and ideas that are not necessarily based on reality, which is a crucial component of envisioning and shaping the future. To create a better future, we must be able to imagine what that future might look like. This requires the ability to think beyond the current constraints of the present and to envision new possibilities and potential outcomes. Imagination allows us to explore different scenarios and to consider different paths forward, which is essential for planning and preparing for the future. Simultaneously, the future also provides a canvas for the imagination to work with. The possibilities of what could inspire the imagination to create new ideas and to push the boundaries of what is currently possible. This creates a cycle of inspiration and creativity, as the imagination can inform the creation of new ideas for the future, and those ideas can in turn inspire further imaginative thinking.

Together they can inspire us to push the boundaries of what is possible and to create a better future for us and for future generations, where it comes to the point called *beyond Realism*.

Beyond realistic ideas, there are many creative and imaginative concepts that people explore. These ideas often involve pushing the boundaries of what is currently known or understood, and may draw from science fiction, fantasy, or other speculative genres. For instance, some people might explore the concept of time travel or alternate realities, imagining what the world might be like if history had taken a different course or if certain events had not occurred. Others might explore the idea of advanced technology, imagining

what kinds of innovations might be possible in the future, or how technology might evolve over time.

Others might explore ideas related to spirituality or the supernatural, imagining what kind of world might exist beyond the physical realm, or what kind of beings might inhabit that world. There are many possibilities for exploring new and imaginative ideas beyond Realism, and the only limit is one's creativity and imagination. In literature the authors have paved their way to the possibilities of *Apocalyptic* concepts.

The concept of Apocalypse refers to a catastrophic event that marks the end of the world or a significant change in the course of history. The term Apocalypse comes from the Greek word Apokalypsis, which means unveiling or revealing. The idea of apocalypse has been present in human culture for thousands of years, with many religions and belief systems incorporating some form of an apocalyptic event. For example, in Christianity, *The Book of Revelation* describes a series of catastrophic events that will signal the end of the world and the return of Jesus Christ.

In contemporary culture, the concept of apocalypse is often associated with *dystopian* or *post-apocalyptic* fiction, which imagines a world after a catastrophic event has occurred. These works often explore themes of survival, morality, and the consequences of human actions. Without any doubt, post-apocalyptic fictions are very relevant and significant in the present era due to the events that are taking place in our world.

Post-apocalyptic fiction is a genre of literature that imagines a world after a catastrophic event has occurred. This event can take many forms, such as a nuclear war, a pandemic, an environmental disaster, or a zombie outbreak. In post-apocalyptic fiction, the world as we know it has been fundamentally changed, and the characters must navigate this new reality. One of the most well-known examples of post-apocalyptic fiction is *Cormac*

McCarthy's *The Road*. Which tells the story of a father and a son as they travel through a post-apocalyptic world.

In recent years, post-apocalyptic fiction has become increasingly popular, with a host of new genres of portrayals such as movies, TV shows, and video games exploring this type of story, as they are more than mere imagination. Movies can take the audience to another realm of possibilities. Some of the most notable examples include *The Walking Dead*, a TV show about a group of survivors in a world overrun by zombies, and *The Hunger Games*, a series of books and movies about a dystopian society in which teenagers are forced to fight to the death in an annual competition.

Post-apocalyptic science -fiction (sci-fi) is a subgenre of science fiction also known as doomsday film which portrays different stories that are set in a world or a particular civilization after nuclear war, pandemic, plague or any other disasters.

The Midnight sky by George Clooney and *Good Morning, Midnight* by Lily Brooks Dalton's are works that come under sub-genre, post-apocalyptic science fiction which details a catastrophic event that happened to the world. George Clooney is an American actor, director, producer, and screenwriter. He was born on May 6, 1961, in Lexington, Kentucky, and grew up in a family involved in the entertainment industry. Clooney began his career as an actor in the late 1970s and early 1980s, appearing in TV shows like *The Facts of Life* and *Roseanne* before landing his breakthrough role on the medical drama *ER* in the mid-1990s.

Since then, Clooney has become one of Hollywood's most recognizable and respected figures. He has appeared in numerous films, including *Ocean's Eleven*, *Up in the Air*, and *Gravity*, and has won multiple awards for his acting, including two Academy Awards. He also Showed his exquisite skill in direction of a number of films, he is known for his ability to craft engaging and thought-provoking films that tackle complex social and political issues. *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind* (2002): This was Clooney's directorial debut, a

biographical spy thriller based on the life of game show host Chuck Barris. The movie received generally positive reviews and was praised for its dark humour and Clooney's stylish direction. *Good Night, and Good Luck* (2005): This historical drama chronicles the clash between television journalist Edward R. Murrow and U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy during the 1950s. The movie received widespread critical acclaim and was nominated for six Academy Awards, including Best Director.

George Clooney directed and starred himself in the 2020 Netflix film *The Midnight Sky*. The movie is a post-apocalyptic science fiction story based on the novel *Good Morning, Midnight* by Lily Brooks-Dalton. Clooney plays a scientist who is one of the last surviving members of a research team stationed in the Arctic after a global catastrophe. The film also stars Felicity Jones, David Oyelowo, Tiffany Boone, and Kyle Chandler.

Clooney's direction of the film has been praised for its stunning visual effects and its thoughtful exploration of themes related to the human condition, including loneliness, sacrifice, and hope.

Lily Brooks-Dalton is an American author known for her post-apocalyptic novel *Good Morning, Midnight*. The novel, which was published in 2016, tells the story of two characters: Augustine, a lonely astronomer stranded in the Arctic after a global catastrophe, and Sully, an astronaut returning to Earth from a mission to Jupiter. The novel has been praised for its beautifully crafted prose, complex characterizations, and thought-provoking themes about humanity, loneliness, and connection.

Aside from *Good Morning, Midnight* Brooks-Dalton has also written several essays, short stories, and literary reviews, which have been published in various literary magazines and journals. Her works often explore the human condition, particularly our relationship with the natural world and with each other. Brooks-Dalton has been nominated for several literary awards, including the Pushcart Prize and the PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Fiction.

CHAPTER 2

A ROAD FROM REALISM TO BEYOND REALISM

The world of reality has its limits; the world of imagination is boundless

-Jean Jaques Rousseau

Realism has been a major movement throughout all the ages in every branch of literature, which paved the way for various authors and creators to portray their very own expression vividly and more directly as it is. Realism has aimed to depict the world truthfully, often addressing social, political, and psychological dimensions of human existence.

The roots of realism can be traced back to ancient Greece and Rome, where there was a focus on representing the world accurately and portraying the human experience realistically. The emergence of realism as an artistic and literary movement can be traced back to the mid-19th century, where it arose as a response to the dominant Romanticism of the time. Realism started to gain momentum in the early to mid-1800s as a reaction against the romanticised idealism and sentimentality of Romantic literature and art. Realist artists and writers aimed to depict the world in a more accurate and truthful manner, often highlighting the struggles, challenges, and realities of everyday existence.

At the very beginning, Ancient Greece and Roman artists represented their contribution by working on naturalistic sculptures. In the Renaissance, Artists like Leonardo da Vinci and Jan van Eyck emphasised realistic representations and the study of nature.

The 19th century was a pivotal period for the emergence and development of realism as an artistic and literary movement. In literature, the works of prominent authors in the 19th century exemplified the principles of realism. Honoré de Balzac, a French writer, created an extensive body of work known as *La Comédie Humaine*. Balzac's novels portrayed various social classes and explored the complexities of human nature. His detailed characterizations and meticulous attention to social hierarchies and economic realities marked a significant

departure from the romanticised narratives of the time. Gustave Flaubert, another key figure in 19th-century realism, achieved acclaim with his novel *Madame Bovary*. Flaubert's attention to minute details and his unflinching portrayal of the flawed and ordinary lives of his characters challenged the idealised notions of love and society prevalent during the Romantic period. The novel's exploration of themes such as marriage, social conventions, and female identity showcased the power of realism in dissecting societal norms and exposing human weaknesses.

In Russia, writers like Fyodor Dostoevsky and Leo Tolstoy made significant contributions to the realist movement. Dostoevsky's works, such as *Crime and Punishment* and *The Brothers Karamazov*, delved into the psychological complexities of his characters and explored the moral and philosophical dilemmas of Russian society. Tolstoy's epic novel *War and Peace* presented a panoramic view of Russian society during the Napoleonic era, intertwining the personal lives of his characters with the grand historical events of the time.

Realism in England was another milestone in the history of literature, it aimed to present a more accurate and objective portrayal of English society and the human condition. One of the most influential figures in English realism was Charles Dickens. His novels vividly depicted the social issues and realities of Victorian England, often focusing on the lives of the working class. Dickens exposed the harsh conditions of poverty, explored themes of social injustice, and created memorable characters that represented various strata of society. Works such as *Oliver Twist*, *Great Expectations*, and *Hard Times* exemplify Dickens' commitment to portraying the realities of everyday life with a keen eye for detail and social critique.

Another notable English realist writer was George Eliot, the pen name of Mary Ann Evans. In novels like *Middlemarch* and *Adam Bede*, Eliot delved into the complexities of human nature and depicted the social and moral issues of her time. Her works often explored

themes of gender roles, religion, and the constraints of society, while providing nuanced and realistic character portrayals.

The Brontë sisters, particularly Charlotte Brontë with her novel *Jane Eyre*, also made significant contributions to English realism. Brontë presented a compelling and realistic portrait of a young woman's struggles, aspirations, and desire for independence in the restrictive Victorian society. Through her protagonist, Brontë confronted issues of gender inequality and social class distinctions.

In the visual arts, the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, founded by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, John Everett Millais, and William Holman Hunt, represented a form of realism in England. These artists aimed to return to the detailed, vibrant, and precise techniques of early Renaissance painting. They depicted scenes from literature, history, and mythology with a meticulous attention to detail and a desire for authenticity.

Late 19th and early 20th century realism refers to the continuation and evolution of the realist literary and artistic movement. During this period, realism underwent certain shifts and developments in response to changing social, political, and cultural contexts. In literature, late 19th century realism saw the rise of authors who continued to explore the social realities of their time while incorporating new thematic and stylistic elements. One significant development was the emergence of naturalism, which can be seen as an extension of realism. Naturalist writers, such as Émile Zola in France and Stephen Crane in the United States, placed a greater emphasis on determinism and the influence of social and environmental factors on individuals' lives. Their works often depicted characters trapped in oppressive social conditions and explored themes such as poverty, alcoholism, and the struggles of the working class. The late 19th century also witnessed the advent of the psychological novel, which delved deeply into characters' inner lives and explored their thoughts, emotions, and motivations. Authors such as Henry James and Fyodor Dostoevsky focused on intricate

psychological portraits and intricate narrative techniques to capture the complexities of human consciousness.

In the 20th century, realism witnessed the emergence of influential writers who tackled a range of subjects and employed different narrative techniques. One significant development was the advent of the modernist novel, which blended elements of realism with innovative narrative structures and experimental styles. Authors such as Virginia Woolf, James Joyce, and William Faulkner explored the inner lives of their characters, delving into subjective experiences, stream-of-consciousness narration, and fragmented storytelling to capture the complexities of human consciousness and the shifting nature of reality.

In the visual arts, realism persisted as an important artistic approach throughout the 20th century. Artists like Edward Hopper, Andrew Wyeth, and Alice Neel continued to portray scenes from everyday life, often depicting urban landscapes, portraits, and domestic scenes with meticulous attention to detail. Realist artists focused on capturing the human condition, social realities, and the beauty found in ordinary moments. In the visual arts, realism persisted as an important artistic approach throughout the 20th century. Artists like Edward Hopper, Andrew Wyeth, and Alice Neel continued to portray scenes from everyday life, often depicting urban landscapes, portraits, and domestic scenes with meticulous attention to detail. Realist artists focused on capturing the human condition, social realities, and the beauty found in ordinary moments.

In the 20th century and after that, Realism was not limited to a single unified movement or style. Instead, it encompassed a wide array of approaches and variations, ranging from traditional realist techniques to experimental and innovative forms of representation. They employ traditional realist techniques while also incorporating new perspectives and exploring the complexities of identity, culture, and technology. While realism faced challenges from emerging modernist movements, its influence persisted, and it

remained an important approach for depicting and reflecting upon the realities of the world. 21st century realism reflects the diverse and ever-changing nature of the contemporary world. It embraces new perspectives, challenges traditional boundaries, and explores the complexities of human existence in a rapidly evolving global society. Hybrid Forms and Experimentation Realism in the 21st century often intersects with other genres, styles, and forms of expression. Authors and artists experiment with blending realism with elements of fantasy, magical realism, science fiction, and other genres, creating unique and hybrid narratives that reflect the complexity and fluidity of contemporary existence. Works in the 21st century often embrace fragmented narratives, multiple perspectives, and nonlinear storytelling techniques. They reflect the fragmented nature of contemporary experiences and challenge linear notions of time and narrative structure.

Literature started to explore further than settling and keep pushing what has already contributed, as well Realism started to evolve through experimenting with various genres. Authors and creators had a mindset of bringing and working on something new with completely unique concepts which could evoke the mind of both readers and audience. Writers and thinkers grappled with the rapid advancements in science, technology, and social change. This period saw the emergence of a literary movement known as "scientific romance" or "proto-science fiction," which laid the foundation for the fusion of realism with futuristic elements. This combination has brought a novel idea about the world, its mysteries, growth and existence.

More than just Realism, it started to blend with speculative elements. The introduction of futuristic concepts into Realism allowed for the exploration of speculative and imaginative ideas within a framework of realistic storytelling. Realism traditionally focused on depicting everyday life and social realities, but the integration of futuristic elements expanded its scope to include futuristic settings, technologies, and societal structures.

The future has always been a fascinating and fertile subject for literature. It offers a canvas for authors to speculate, imagine, and explore the possibilities that lie ahead. Future focused literature allows us to reflect on the present, question our trajectory, and envision potential outcomes. The future is always unknown and strange to our ears now or then, neither certain. Although deep inside our instinct tends to believe in it somehow. The world that waits in our future lives is unpredictable, it is a rhetorical question that could blow up the minds.

What will our future world look like? Will it be a utopia or a dystopia?

This unknown world can only be created out of our imagination, it's the basic source to create such a world and possibilities in it. The world in our future might be fascinating or destructive. The future doesn't hold any sort of certainty. A world brimming with possibilities and mysteries, where the boundaries of imagination stretch beyond the confines of our current reality. As we venture into this uncharted territory, questions abound, and anticipation builds. What lies beyond the veil of the familiar? Will we encounter advanced civilizations, technologically evolved beings, or sentient machines? Will we traverse sprawling cities that touch the sky, connected by networks of high-speed transportation? Or will we find ourselves in a natural paradise, where harmonious coexistence with the environment is paramount? Perhaps we'll navigate towering megatowers that pierce the clouds or explore underwater realms teeming with bioluminescent creatures. Maybe it's possible to witness the fusion of organic and synthetic, with cyborgs and augmented humans seamlessly integrated into society. The possibilities are as diverse as the imagination that gives them shape.

As we embark on this journey into the future, we are confronted with questions that challenge our very existence. It's certain about the dilemmas that every single person will have to experience. Dealing with the knowledge, shaping of the power, establishment of

interaction and relationship, in this unknown world, the essence of humanity is tested and redefined. The unknown futuristic world beckons us to ponder the significance of our choices and the consequences they may hold. It challenges us to imagine a future that transcends our current limitations yet remains grounded in the core elements of our humanity. It is a realm where innovation and progress walk hand in hand with the preservation of our collective spirit.

It is through the power of imagination that we can conceive of possibilities beyond our current reality and envision a future that is different from the present. Imagination is the driving force behind the realisation of futuristic things. Imagination is the initial step in the creative process. It allows us to conceive new possibilities, envision innovative concepts, and explore uncharted territories. It is through imagination that we can dream up futuristic ideas and think beyond the boundaries of the present. Imagination helps generate the seeds of innovation. Imagination about the future is a dynamic and ongoing process. It involves continuous exploration, iteration, and refinement as new information and insights emerge. It allows us to dream, speculate, and push the boundaries of what is possible, laying the foundation for innovation, progress, and positive change in the world.

Realism comes to the light working with imagination to build up the futuristic world which has been unknown and mysterious in our lives so far. The incorporation of futuristic concepts within the framework of realism introduces an intriguing dynamic to the movement. It adds a layer of speculation, imagination, and anticipation of what the future holds, while still maintaining a grounded and authentic portrayal of the human experience. Realism allows for the exploration of possible future societies in a way that reflects the current social, political, and cultural landscape. By extrapolating from existing conditions and trends, authors can present a realistic depiction of how society might evolve. This can involve envisioning changes in governance, social structures, technology, and cultural norms.

This caused the emergence of the post-apocalyptic genre which evokes the feeling of anxiety, curiosity and hope among the present worlds. The world is counting on to get to know further about what the future really holds. Realism provides a solid foundation for post-apocalyptic literature by grounding the story in recognizable elements of the real world. It incorporates details, settings, and characters that are relatable and plausible, making the narrative more believable. Realism establishes a connection to the reader's own experiences and creates a sense of familiarity, even amid an imagined post-apocalyptic scenario. The post-apocalyptic genre is eagerly anticipated by audiences as it combines elements of survival, reflection on societal issues, escapism, imaginative world-building, examination of the human condition, and themes of hope and redemption. It offers an engaging and thought-provoking experience, allowing us to envision different futures, learn from our present, and consider the potential paths our world may take.

CHAPTER 3

ANALYSING THE MOVIE, *THE MIDNIGHT SKY* BY GEORGE CLOONEY IN LIGHT OF REALISM AND BEYOND REALISM

George Clooney's *The Midnight Sky* is based on the novel *Good Morning, Midnight* by Lily Brooks-Dalton. It is a film that combines elements of post-apocalyptic and space exploration genres, offering a poignant and thought-provoking narrative. The film constantly goes back and forth by running between past and present. It explores the themes of isolation, sacrifice, redemption, and the consequences of our actions. It juxtaposes the desolate Earth with the vastness of space, while delving into the importance of human connection and the search for meaning in a devastated world. It could evoke both the emotional and rational parts of the very human instinct.

Indeed, the COVID-19 pandemic was unforeseen, and certainly it made a huge impact on the entire world. The movie *The Midnight Sky* certainly wasn't aware of the upcoming pandemic while the shooting has been taking place, but it has affected the process of editing.

The storyline of the movie *The Midnight Sky* has made slight changes from the novel due to the adaptation. Adapting a novel into a film involves a transformation of the source material from one medium to another. Novels have the freedom to delve into internal thoughts, perspectives, and complex character development through extensive descriptions and introspection. Films, on the other hand, rely more on visual storytelling, dialogue, and action. The narrative structure of a novel may need to be altered or condensed in a film adaptation to fit within the constraints of a typical runtime. Visual interpretation had given entire justice to the novel. Movies provide a visual interpretation of the story, showcasing locations, characters, and events through cinematography, production design, and special effects. The visual aspects of a film adaptation can significantly impact the overall tone and atmosphere of the story.

George Clooney as being both the director and producer gave immense success to the movie, the world after a huge catastrophe is quite unimaginable yet, representing visually to the audience made it realise that certain things might occur in the future without any alarm. Direction is one of the core operations in a movie making and it must be the backbone to the script. The goal of an adaptation is to capture the essence of the source material while utilising the unique strengths of the film medium to convey the story effectively to a visual audience.

The movie is set in the year 2049, three weeks after a mysterious global event that has wiped out most of humanity. Augustine Lofthouse, played by George Clooney, is a scientist living in an Arctic research facility named Barbeau Observatory, who discovers that a group of astronauts returning from a mission to Jupiter's moon, is unaware of the disaster on Earth. The mission undertaken by the crew of astronauts is called Mission AETHER. The crew's objective is to travel to a habitable moon of Jupiter named K-23 and determine its suitability for human colonisation. They are equipped with advanced technology and scientific instruments to study the moon's atmosphere, surface conditions, and potential for sustaining human life.

Augustine Lofthouse, a scientist who chooses to remain alone in an Arctic research facility, the Barbeau Observatory, as the rest of the facility is evacuated. Augustine is terminally ill and believes he has little time left, so he decided to stay there. Meanwhile he discovers a little girl named Iris, played by Caoilinn Springall, who must have been left behind in his base. Iris neither talks nor communicates with Augustine, later, they create a great bond to each other. Together they set off to Lake Haze, where there is an antenna that is occupied for communicating with the Spaceship crew about the situation on earth. The movie also includes flashbacks that provide insights into Augustine's personal life, including his regrets and the choices he made that led him to this solitary existence. These flashbacks also

reveal the existence of a mysterious relationship with a woman named Jean, played by Sophie Rundle, and the possibility of a daughter.

The catastrophic event that took place on the earth has severely created havoc and everyone evacuated in the meantime, although the event is not much discussed, it clears that, radiation is spreading throughout the earth which caused earth as a dangerous place to reside by. This is indeed an unimaginable situation yet experiencing it through sight turns it into a sense of reality.

One of the central settings in the film is the vastness of space. The portrayal of the spacecraft Aether and its crew on a mission to a habitable moon of Jupiter creates a sense of wonder and exploration that goes beyond the limits of our current reality. The breathtaking visuals of the vast cosmic expanse and the depiction of space travel evoke a sense of awe and transcendence. In the movie, humanity's survival hinges on the unknown and unexplored moon of Jupiter, which holds the potential for a new home. The concept of venturing into the unknown and facing the uncertainties of a distant and unfamiliar world introduces a sense of Beyond Realism. The characters grapple with the mysteries and possibilities that lie ahead, pushing the boundaries of what is known and provoking philosophical questions about human existence.

The movie's post-apocalyptic setting, with its desolate landscapes and ruined cities, is depicted in a realistic manner. The cinematography captures the barrenness and harshness of the environment, emphasising the impact of the catastrophe on Earth. The visual design, including the production design and set dressing, adds authenticity to the portrayal of the devastated world. The Earth's desolate landscapes, the abandoned research station, and the spacecraft interiors are meticulously designed to reflect a believable world affected by a global catastrophe. There is a significant scene where Augustine faces a severe storm while embarking on a journey to find a functional antenna. This moment showcases the intense

challenges and dangers that Augustine encounters in his mission to reach out to the AETHER spacecraft and warn the crew of catastrophic events on Earth. As Augustine braves the elements, the storm intensifies, with powerful winds, snow, and reduced visibility. The cinematography captures the harshness of the environment, emphasising the struggle and determination of Augustine to overcome the obstacles in his path. The storm serves as a metaphor for the immense turmoil and devastation that humanity is facing in the post-apocalyptic world.

The portrayal of this post-apocalyptic setting is grounded in both Realism and beyond Realism with attention to detail in the depiction of the ruined landscapes, abandoned structures, and the challenges faced by the remaining survivors. The realistic portrayal of the world enhances the audience's immersion in the story and creates a sense of believability. The future that has been represented is not to be denied with disbelief, since screen time is providing immense authenticity to the eyes.

The Midnight Sky is known for its stunning cinematography, which effectively captures the desolate beauty of both the Arctic landscapes and the vastness of space. The film creates a visually striking atmosphere that enhances the sense of isolation, mystery, and impending doom. The cinematography, led by cinematographer Martin Ruhe, utilises a muted colour palette to convey the bleakness of the post-apocalyptic world. The icy landscapes of the Arctic are portrayed with a cold and desaturated look, emphasising the harshness and emptiness of the environment. The use of wide shots and aerial views showcases the vast, untouched landscapes, evoking a sense of solitude and insignificance. The film employs a mix of camera techniques to enhance the storytelling. Steady, deliberate camera movements are used to emphasise the isolation and loneliness of the characters, while also creating a sense of intimacy during emotional moments. Close-ups capture the nuanced expressions and emotions of the actors, allowing the audience to connect with their experiences.

The Midnight Sky employs visual effects to bring to life its post-apocalyptic and space settings, enhancing the film's overall visual impact and creating a sense of awe and wonder, a transcendence. The visual effects, led by the VFX team, play a crucial role in creating the film's atmospheric and immersive world. One notable aspect of the visual effects in the film is the depiction of the post-apocalyptic Earth. The film showcases the devastating aftermath of an unspecified global catastrophe, and visual effects are utilised to portray desolation and destruction. This includes the depiction of decimated cities, abandoned structures, and the harsh environmental conditions of the Arctic. The visual effects team seamlessly blends practical and digital effects to create a believable and immersive post-apocalyptic landscape. In addition to the Earth's devastation, visual effects are used to depict the vastness of space and the wonders of the cosmos. Scenes set aboard the Aether spacecraft and during spacewalks showcase stunning visuals of stars, nebulas, and celestial bodies. The visual effects team brings these elements to life, creating a sense of grandeur and capturing the awe-inspiring nature of space exploration.

The portrayal of outer space contributes to the sense of Realism by presenting it in a visually captivating yet scientifically accurate manner. It shows astronomical accuracy quintessentially. The movie pays attention to astronomical details, presenting celestial bodies such as stars, planets, and moons in a scientifically accurate way. The depiction of Jupiter and its moon, as well as the constellations, adds to the authenticity of the space setting. This attention to detail enhances the Realism of the cosmic environment. The film incorporates small details to enhance the Realism of the space setting. This includes the use of sound design to represent the absence of sound in the vacuum of space, the portrayal of space suits and equipment, and the inclusion of realistic space mission protocols. These details contribute to the overall sense of authenticity.

There is a certain part where the spaceship mission AETHER, crew members Sully (Felicity Jones), Adewole (David Oyelowo), Maya (Tiffany Boone) venture outside their spacecraft to repair the damaged radar. This scene showcases the challenges and dangers of performing a spacewalk and highlights the filmmakers' attention to detail and Realism. As the scene begins, the Aether spacecraft hovers in the vastness of space, surrounded by the breathtaking backdrop of stars and celestial bodies. The crew members don their sleek, white spacesuits, complete with helmets and visors that provide them with life support and protect them from the harsh conditions of the vacuum. Meanwhile, they take a moment to appreciate the awe-inspiring view of space before retracing their steps back to the safety of the spacecraft. The whole view out there is exquisite that makes the viewers wonderstruck as well as its spell bound.

“Oh my god. No view quite like that” (1:13:39)

This scene showcases the meticulous attention to detail in portraying the spacewalk and conveys a sense of Realism through the careful depiction of astronaut procedures, movements, and the inherent risks of working in space. The combination of stunning visuals, accurate portrayal of weightlessness, and the technical precision of the repair process adds to the immersive experience, allowing the audience to feel the intensity and significance of the moment in the story.

The movie captures minor details about the perspective of the astronauts aboard the Aether spacecraft, providing a realistic portrayal of life in space. The weightlessness, limited space, and use of technology reflect the challenges and conditions that real-life astronauts experience. This portrayal adds a level of authenticity to the space sequences.

Augustine in his young age, when he was experiencing his great success and fame among the world, describes in his book, theory and the invention that Jupiter's previously undiscovered Moon K-23 is capable enough to the humankind to colonise since its condition

is similar to the Earth. Even though K-23 is fictional, it's evident enough that it could be possible because the technology and scientific innovations are not static but evolving. Also, the idea about inhabitable space implies that the future will certainly have to face destruction and the human race needs to survive somehow by residing where there is a possibility to occupy. Instantly, K-23 is growing into a symbol of hope for humankind in a world that has been collapsed by an apocalyptic event.

Gritty and Practical Survival is another aspect of the movie, the characters' survival in the harsh conditions of the post-apocalyptic world is depicted in a realistic manner. They face practical challenges such as rationing food and supplies, finding shelter, and dealing with the physical and emotional toll of their circumstances. The movie avoids romanticising the survival aspect and instead presents it with a gritty and grounded approach.

There is an intense exploration of human nature and morality, Realism delves into the complexities of human nature, often highlighting the ethical and moral dilemmas individuals face. "The Midnight Sky" explores themes of isolation, sacrifice, and the consequences of humanity's actions. The characters are confronted with difficult choices and their personal journeys reflect the moral ambiguity of the post-apocalyptic world. It would be impossible to deal with life that is in an unstable pace, unable to interpret what is really happening around and what exactly holds in the very next moment.

When it comes to the characters, they are portrayed as complex and flawed. They are multidimensional, reflecting the complexities of real-life individuals. They experience a range of emotions, doubts, and struggles, making them relatable to the audience. Each character in *The Midnight Sky* contributes to the sense of Realism through their unique personalities, experiences, and interactions. Their portrayal as multi-dimensional individuals facing the hardships of a post-apocalyptic world adds depth and authenticity to the narrative, enhancing the overall sense of Realism in the movie.

Augustine is presented as a complex and flawed character, which adds to the sense of Realism. He is a brilliant scientist, but also a loner with a troubled past. Augustine's struggles with his health, regrets, and personal demons make him relatable and human. Augustine's emotional journey is the central focus of the movie. Augustine's situation in the film reflects the harsh realities of the post-apocalyptic world. As he remains alone in an Arctic research station, battling illness and isolation, his daily struggles and survival instincts mirror the challenges one might face in such circumstances. He experiences a range of emotions, including loneliness, guilt, regret, and hope. The movie delves into his internal conflicts and psychological turmoil, portraying his emotions in a realistic and raw manner. He's vulnerable in both physical and mental state, he's grappling with his own body and soul. It's obvious about the condition in which he's going through where there is no hope since he's the last and the single person who's left on the Earth. Augustine confronts enough menacing events where he continuously holds on to his valiant mind and never gives up, which proves his ultimate determination for something that he must accomplish. Although he's not any more concerned about his own life, he's on the verge of his best to save those who are turning back to Earth from Jupiter's Moon mission. George Clooney as Augustine brings a sense of raw and authentic emotions to the screen. The audience can empathise with the characters' experiences, adding to the Realism of the storytelling. Augustine finds his solace in the little girl Iris, his solitary life on Earth turns out more meaningful and purposeful when he has to encounter her. As a matter of fact, Iris is a mere illusion of Augustine in his treacherous journey and the edge of existence.

The other characters like Iris (played by Caoilinn Springall) and Sully (played by Felicity Jones) delivered such great work in the movie by portraying their intensive roles with so much dedication to the reality. These two characters are literally powerful and communicate with us in a legitimate way on the account of the circumstances. While Iris

reminds the audience of the human connection and hope that can be found even in desperate times, Sully reflects the resilience and adaptability needed to survive in a challenging environment. The numerous emotions displayed by these characters are loyal and tremendously convincing to the audience.

Iris is the childhood rendition of Sully, and in the last part the movie unravels that, she's the daughter of the protagonist, Augustine Lofthouse and his long-lost partner Jean Sullivan (played by Sophie Rundle), whom he left long ago due to his immense passion towards his career. The reality check Augustine got at the period of his life where he hopes and redeems for everything he has done back, there's nothing left to pursue, the dark and bright past times that flashes through his mind and the roller-coaster of emotions are inarticulate.

The reality is something which could not be hidden yet exposed eventually. As well as the Earth in which we are living is uncertain and unpredictable, the future is mysterious, yet our imagination can bring some additional possibilities. Realism is not about just the present, it's also said to be bonded with the future and upcoming events in the universe. *The Midnight Sky* is a magnificent work of George Clooney who experimented his talent through directing the movie. One of the excellent works showed us the reality of enough complexities we will have to face in the future simultaneously that the path of survival is not anymore impossible. It's one among those movies which makes the audience ponder what it is after. It weaves together the narratives of Augustine, Iris, and the astronauts, delving into themes of human connection, loneliness, sacrifice, and the consequences of our actions. It raises questions about the survival of humanity, the responsibility we bear for the future, and the importance of hope in the face of adversity with the effect of intense Realism.

The Midnight Sky delves into existential themes, exploring questions of human purpose, loneliness, and the fragility of life. The characters confront their own mortality and

grapple with their past decisions and regrets. The exploration of these deeper philosophical and existential questions pushes the boundaries of realism, inviting audiences to contemplate their place in the universe and the meaning of their existence. George Clooney's *The Midnight Sky* combines elements of Realism with Beyond Realism, blurring the line between the known and the unknown, the tangible and the intangible. The movie's portrayal of space, the unknown world, interconnectedness, and existential themes all contribute to a narrative that goes beyond the constraints of everyday reality, inviting viewers to contemplate the mysteries of the universe and the complexities of the human experience.

The movie features striking visuals, a poignant musical score, and powerful performances from the cast, including George Clooney's portrayal of Augustine Lofthouse. Through its storytelling and exploration of existential themes, *The Midnight Sky* offers a contemplative and thought-provoking viewing experience.

CHAPTER 4

ANALYSING THE NOVEL *GOOD MORNING, MIDNIGHT* BY LILY

BROOKS DALTONS IN LIGHT OF REALISM AND BEYOND

REALISM

Good Morning, Midnight is Lily Brooks Dalton's debut novel, published in 2016 by Random House. *Good Morning, Midnight* is a dystopian novel, made its captivating debut among the readers, and grabbed huge attention due to its speculative narrative mode. Plot dives back and forth between the present and flashbacks in two different locations; the Arctic and outer space. An American publishing company named Shelf Awareness and Chicago Review of Books included on their list and titled the book *Good Morning, Midnight* as one among the best novels of 2016. It was well appreciated by many other critics and authors. In an interview in 2016 the author revealed her inspiration on writing the particular novel, it was back then the author used to work at a Radio Station in the Northeast, where one among the crew had to periodically knock off the heavy snow from the transmitter, or else it would muffle the entire signal which reasons to the loss of connection. That very image of someone alone in an empty station, keeping the signal alive has stuck in the mind of the author, which eventually caused the birth of the novel. In another interview she pointed out another inspiration about her; exploring gender roles in parenthood. Director George Clooney received the movie rights to the novel in June 2019. Clooney himself directed and acted in the adaptation, entitled *The Midnight Sky*. Screenplay written by Mark L. Smith.

In the novel, the story primarily focuses on two characters, Augustine and Sully, and their respective journeys. Augustine is a scientist living in the Arctic, while Sully is an astronaut returning from a mission in space. The narrative alternates between their perspectives, exploring their inner thoughts and experiences.

In an apocalyptic world where there is no hope left, the two characters find solace in each other. Both Augustine and Sully, who are struggling to survive in a world that has been devastated by an unexplained catastrophe. The novel explores themes such as isolation, loss, and human connection, as the characters confront the harsh realities of a world without any purpose.

Author, Lily Brooks Dalton has blended the sceptical elements with Realism that explored another level of creation. There are elements that go beyond Realism and delve into the realms of imagination, speculation, and metaphor. While the novel has realistic elements, it also introduces abstract concepts and symbolic imagery that push the boundaries of traditional Realism. The role of imagination urges the readers to dive into the realm of beyond Realism.

The depiction of arctic settings and the vastness of space plays a significant role in creating a sense of both Realism and going beyond Realism. The novel opens with the character Augustine, a scientist living in the Arctic, where the frigid and desolate landscape is vividly portrayed. The descriptions of the icy tundra, the howling winds, and the isolation of the research station contribute to a realistic depiction of the harsh arctic environment. The author's attention to detail in capturing the physicality of the setting creates an immersive experience for the reader, evoking a sense of authenticity. Readers could sense the world around them no less than the description provided by. As defined;

“The Barbeau Observatory was built as an extension of the mountain. The blunt fist of the telescope’s dome rose defiantly higher than anything else for miles, surveying the rest of the mountain range like a warden. There was an airstrip and a hangar about a kilometer south, where the tundra had been packed and smoothed by a bulldozer airlifted from Greenland, marked with

reflective orange flags and lined with lights that didn't work anymore. The hangar was empty, the strip neglected". (Dalton 4)

"The outbuildings that surrounded the observatory were hardly buildings at all, more like weatherproof tents for eating, drinking, sleeping, and storage. Barbeau's standard research fellowship lasted between six and nine months, but Augustine had stayed for almost two years before the evacuation. Now it was nearly three years that he'd been here". (Dalton 5)

Simultaneously, the vastness of space serves as another backdrop that expands the narrative beyond the boundaries of Realism. The exploration of outer space and the journey of the Aether spacecraft to a distant moon introduce a sense of wonder and awe. The descriptions of the celestial bodies, the weightlessness, and the unknown depths of space evoke a sense of both Realism and a sense of the fantastical. The vastness of the cosmos becomes a metaphor for the vastness of human existence, pushing the boundaries of the known world and inviting contemplation of the unknown. The weightlessness and silence of space are also evoked, enhancing the sense of otherworldliness. The absence of sound and the absence of gravity create a unique atmosphere that is both captivating and eerie. The descriptions of the astronauts floating in their spacecraft, surrounded by nothingness, convey a sense of detachment from earthly experiences and emphasise the immense void of space. Juxtaposing the Realism of the Arctic setting with the boundless and speculative nature of space exploration, the novel presents a duality that blends both the familiar and the extraordinary. This interplay between the earthly and the cosmic creates a sense of Realism in the familiar arctic landscapes while simultaneously pushing the boundaries of Realism through the exploration of the vastness and mysteries of space.

"Everyone had retreated to a separate corner of the ship. There was only Tal left on little Earth, looking at a Radar tablet showing the local activity in the

asteroid belt. The belt was in fact sparsely populated, millions of asteroids spread out across such an incredible distance that they'd be lucky to see even one on their way through. Their passage through the belt had been scheduled around a particularly inactive window, a Kirkwood gap when all the larger asteroids were swept up into the orbital resonance created by Jupiter's massive gravity. The chances of colliding with an asteroid were infinitesimal, but it was Tal's job to make sure they didn't beat the odds". (Dalton 27)

"They hovered together in silence, looking out into the vast emptiness. The prospect of entering it, of inhabiting the vacuum, made home seem even farther away. Out there, there was no safety net, nothing to anchor a floating astronaut to the ship other than the thin tethers and each other". (Dalton 14)

The characters in the novel are presented with a level of Realism in their emotional struggles, introspection, and interactions. Augustine, in particular, is a character whose inner conflicts and regrets reflect the complexity of human nature. His journey of self-discovery and the exploration of themes such as loneliness and the search for meaning offer a realistic portrayal of the human condition.

Augustine, an ageing astronomer living in the Arctic at a research facility. The world has undergone an unexplained catastrophe, and Augustine has chosen to remain behind as most of the scientists have evacuated. He is 78, isolated and spends his days conducting research and reflecting on his past. Augustine discovers a signal from a distant spacecraft called Aether, which is returning from a mission to Jupiter's moon, K-23. Determined to make contact, Augustine embarks on a journey to a more powerful antenna station in the hope of reaching the spacecraft and warning them about the state of Earth.

Augustine was a man with ultimate passion towards the sky, stars and planets. The things which usually excite him and make him thoughtful were what was above. And he was a man who appreciated intelligence above everything around him, that's how he earned his position among hundreds. He wanted to explore the entire universe and its history. Yet the ultimate result was unanticipated for him. As discussed in the novel;

“Continents and countries meant nothing to him; it was only the sky that moved him, the happenings on the other side of the atmospheric window. His work ethic was strong, his ego engorged, his results groundbreaking, but he wasn't satisfied and never would be. It wasn't success he craved, or even fame, it was history; he wanted to crack the universe open like a ripe Watermelon, to arrange the mess of pulpy seeds before his dumbfounded colleagues. He wanted to take the dripping red fruit in his hands and quantify the guts of infinity, to look back into the dawn of time and glimpse the very beginning. He wanted to be remembered”. (Dalton 3)

“He recalled the tropical observation observatories he'd worked in, women he had held in his arms, papers he'd written, speeches he'd given. There had been a time when his lectures drew hundreds of people. Afterward, there would be a cluster of admirers waiting around to ask him for his autograph. His accomplishments haunted him, all the things that had seemed so meaningful at that time. None of it mattered anymore. The world beyond the observatory was quiet, empty”. (Dalton 24).

Augustine's life becomes meaningful and purposeful while he starts to live with a character named Iris, a little girl, a mere illusion of his, yet stirs up him to lead the journey of determination from an entirely living corpse. His ultimate determination to save the crew of Mission Aether is exquisite.

Augustine's decision to leave Jean is influenced by a combination of personal and external factors. Augustine, a scientist dedicated to his work, makes the difficult choice to prioritise his research and the potential discovery of a habitable planet over his relationship with Jean. Augustine's decision is his unwavering passion for astronomy and the pursuit of knowledge. His commitment to understanding the universe and the possibility of finding a new home for humanity drives him to make sacrifices, including leaving behind his loved ones. Augustine believes that his work has the potential to impact the future of humanity, and he feels a deep responsibility to pursue it. And there's another factor is Augustine's internal struggle and personal demons. He carries a sense of guilt and regret, particularly surrounding his role in Jean's pregnancy and the events that unfolded thereafter. Augustine believes that he is not fit to be a father or provide the love and support that Jean and their child deserve. His decision to distance himself from Jean may stem from a belief that he is protecting them from his perceived inadequacies.

Augustine's character brings a strong sense of Realism In the novel through his emotional depth, scientific expertise, and authentic portrayal of human struggles and connections. His portrayal adds depth and believability to the story, allowing readers to immerse themselves in a world that feels real and relatable.

Sully in the novel is corresponding to Augustine. Sully is an astronaut who finds herself on a mission named Aether to Jupiter with five other crew members including Commander Harper, Devi, Thebes, Ivanov and Tal in space when a catastrophic event occurs on Earth. She is portrayed as a complex and introspective character. Sullivan is a seasoned astronaut who has spent a considerable amount of time in space, and her experiences have shaped her perspective on life and humanity. Her introspective nature and reflective thoughts add depth to her character and contribute to the overall emotional tone of the novel. As an astronaut, Sully is trained to handle the challenges and demands of space exploration. Her

actions, reactions, and dialogue reflect the technical knowledge, discipline, and professionalism associated with astronauts. This adds authenticity to the story and emphasises the Realism of the space exploration aspect.

Sullivan is precisely Augustine; she left her child Lucy with her divorced partner, due to her passion for being an astronaut and is haunted by her past and carries a burden of guilt throughout her mission. Despite her emotional struggles, Sully demonstrates resilience and determination. She is resourceful and adaptive, facing the challenges of surviving in a post-apocalyptic world with a sense of pragmatism and a will to survive. Sully's character embodies a sense of longing and a search for connection. She yearns for human contact and seeks solace in memories and moments of connection with others. Her interactions with the other characters, such as Augustine and the crew of the Aether spacecraft, bring forth moments of vulnerability, strength, and empathy. Her internal struggles and her journey of self-discovery provide a deeply human element to the story, adding layers of emotional resonance.

Sully was particularly assigned for scanning the Radio frequency for the communication spectrum since they have lost their connection with all the mission control over the Earth. She kept attempting to capture the waves until the end where she gets to converse with Augustine, where they create a wonderful bond.

The portrayal of human relationships and interactions also contributes to the Realism in the novel. The exploration of loneliness, regret, and the search for human connection in both Augustine and Sully's narratives is portrayed with authenticity. The characters' vulnerabilities, doubts, and desires reflect the complexities of human nature, making them relatable and adding depth to the story. Here, besides Sully and Augustine, the character of Iris has brought complete justice to the novel.

Iris is a young girl living in an isolated Arctic research station with her father, Augustine. Even though she's a mere illusion of Augustine, in almost every chapter of the novel, she appears to be living with Augustine, having both good and bad times. She has grown up in this extreme environment, adapting to the harsh conditions and limited resources. Iris's resilience and resourcefulness in navigating her daily life in the Arctic reflect the realities of survival and the challenges faced by those living in such remote locations. Her interactions with Augustine also contribute to the Realism of the story. Iris has a strong bond with her father, and their relationship is depicted with authenticity and depth. Their conversations and shared experiences reveal the complexities of their connection and the emotional struggles they both face. Iris's vulnerability and youthful perspective bring a realistic and relatable element to the narrative. Furthermore, Iris's observations of nature and her deep appreciation for the beauty and power of the Arctic landscape add a sense of Realism to the novel. She notices the subtle changes in the environment, the behaviour of animals, and the shifting weather patterns, all of which contribute to the immersive depiction of the Arctic setting.

Augustine and Sully's encounter is one of the major phases in the novel where both the characters and readers find a glimpse of hope. The world of Sully and her crew members might have turned upside down, if the communication didn't work out well. Augustine's strenuous journey to Lake Hazen with Iris made his resolution come true when they finally got to share what they were desperately waiting for. This particular part shows in reality, the yearning of a human for another human or just a connection is enough to fill the distance between them.

“She kept scanning the frequencies, kept listening for something, anything, that might indicate the remains of humankind. She began to transmit when she thought the rest of the crew wouldn't hear her. Her transmissions weren't

exactly professional. They were prayers- not to God, who she'd never liked the sound of, just to the universe, or to the earth itself. *Please, please just one voice, one answer. Anybody, anything*". (Dalton 13)

Augustine's solitary existence, surrounded by the harsh and unforgiving Arctic landscape, creates a heightened sense of realism as he grapples with the realities of his situation. The author portrays his struggle to survive, both physically and emotionally, with vivid detail and a sense of authenticity. Augustine's daily routines, his interactions with the natural environment, and his introspective thoughts all contribute to a realistic portrayal of his existence as the last man on Earth. At the same time, the novel explores Augustine's inner world and his contemplation of life's meaning and purpose. Through introspection and memories, he delves into the realms of philosophy, mortality, and human connection, which transcend the boundaries of Realism. These deeper explorations into the human psyche and existential themes add a layer of complexity to Augustine's character, blurring the line between the realistic and the abstract.

The novel explores themes of exploration, isolation, and the mysteries of the universe. As Augustine and the Aether crew embark on their respective journeys, readers are encouraged to speculate on the unknown. They can ponder the possibilities of the unexplored Jupiter moon, imagine the wonders and challenges that lie ahead, and contemplate the existential questions raised by the characters' quests. This imaginative speculation allows readers to engage with the novel's themes on a deeper level. The imaginative power of readers is instrumental in fully experiencing and appreciating *Good Morning, Midnight*. By actively engaging their imagination, readers can visualise the settings, empathise with the characters, speculate on the unknown, and create a rich and immersive reading experience that goes beyond the words on the page. Lily Brooks-Dalton combines elements of Realism with existential and introspective themes, pushing the boundaries of the genre and delving

into the realm of the "beyond Realism." The juxtaposition of Augustine's realistic survival struggles with his contemplations of larger existential questions creates a rich and thought-provoking narrative that transcends conventional boundaries.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

A world is, indeed, always mysterious, a puzzle that couldn't be resolved at any cost. It will always remain in such a way that human instinct will always raise questions about its existence. Indeed, the impermanence of the universe has always hidden in the dark, in the religious aspect the universe will end, and it's assured for the believers. The concept of the uncertain existence of the world is a profound and thought-provoking subject that has captivated the minds of philosophers, scientists, and artists throughout history. It speaks to the inherent unpredictability and transience of the world we inhabit, raising questions about our place in it and the nature of our existence.

The connection between the world and Realism lies in the depiction of reality and the truthful representation of human experience. Realism in literature, art, or any form of creative expression aims to reflect the world as it is, often focusing on the everyday lives of ordinary people, social issues, and the harsh realities of society. The goal of realism is to convey a true and accurate picture of the world. It accurately captures the intricacies, complexities, and diversity of human experiences by depicting individuals, situations, and events in a way that closely matches real life. Realism makes it possible for readers or viewers to relate to the story on a personal and relatable level by mirroring the world around them.

And what if the world ends? This question is prevalent. It's always been the future, that is bizarre for each instinct and it's hard to interpret and contain. A post-apocalyptic world may not be something which we anticipated, yet the possibility cannot be denied. A world that has been destroyed entirely, nothing left to hold on to, in addition being the last person on the Earth is nothing but a daunting notion. Mankind has to survive no matter how; Mankind should be aware of the possibility of such circumstances.

The future can be expected through the formation of one's Imagination. Imagination can travel so far better through various directions. Imagination could take the individual mind to another level with both possibilities and impossibilities. Yet impossibilities might turn out to be real. Future and imagination are intertwined in the formation of the upcoming world.

Literature has long been a powerful vehicle for exploring and depicting the post-apocalyptic world. It provides a platform for authors to delve into the complexities of human existence, society, and morality in the aftermath of catastrophic events. Post-apocalyptic literature allows us to examine the consequences of our actions, confront our fears, and imagine the possibilities and challenges that arise in a radically transformed world. One of the primary functions of post-apocalyptic literature is to capture human experience in extreme and unfamiliar circumstances. Through vivid descriptions, compelling characters, and intricate world-building, authors transport readers into a world ravaged by disaster, where survival becomes the paramount concern. Post-apocalyptic literature also serves as a reflection and critique of the world we live in today. By imagining a future where society has collapsed or undergone radical transformations, authors can explore contemporary issues, such as climate change, technological advancements, social inequality, or political unrest, in a heightened and speculative context. These narratives provide a lens through which we can examine our own world and the potential consequences of our present actions.

Novels and movies contribute a distinct and interconnected role in literature. Both movies and novels serve as platforms for storytelling. They present narratives, characters, and events that captivate and immerse the audience. Whether through words on a page or moving images on a screen, both mediums have the power to transport readers and viewers into different worlds and evoke emotions. Movies, with their visual and auditory elements, provide a sensory experience that brings stories to life. Through cinematography, set designs, costumes, and special effects, makers can create vivid and immersive worlds that enhance the

storytelling. Novels, on the other hand, rely on the reader's imagination to visualise the scenes and characters described on the page, allowing for a more personalised and intimate experience. Movies and novels employ different narrative structures to tell their stories. Novels have the freedom to delve into the characters' internal thoughts, explore multiple perspectives, and employ various literary techniques such as flashbacks, stream of consciousness, or nonlinear narratives. Movies, on the other hand, rely on visual cues, editing, and pacing to guide the audience through the narrative. Both mediums offer unique approaches to structuring and presenting stories. Novels often serve as source material for movie adaptations. makers adapt literary works to bring them to a wider audience and to explore different creative possibilities through the visual medium. Adaptations can introduce the story to new audiences and offer a fresh interpretation, while also sparking interest in the original novel and encouraging readership. While movies and novels have their unique qualities, they often intersect and complement each other in the realm of storytelling. Many novels have been adapted into successful movies, and adaptations can pique interest in the original written works. Together, movies and novels contribute to the rich tapestry of literature, offering diverse and engaging narratives that resonate with audiences across different mediums.

Connecting Realism with imagination allows for a richer and more expansive storytelling experience. It enables writers, artists, and audiences to explore the complexities of the human condition, evoke emotions, delve into symbolism, and tap into the transformative power of imagination. When it appears with imagination it's basically beyond Realism. Realism and beyond Realism are two distinct concepts, yet they can coexist and even complement each other in certain artistic expressions. Realism and beyond Realism can be blended together to create a rich and multi-layered artistic experience. Elements of beyond Realism, such as magical Realism, science fiction, or surrealism, can be seamlessly woven

into a realistic narrative. This blending of elements can enhance the story, adding depth, symbolism, and metaphorical layers to the overall work.

George Clooney's *The Midnight Sky* an adaptation of Lily Brook Dalton's *Good Morning, Midnight* is an exquisite work that comes under the speculative genre that provided the essence of a post-apocalyptic world. While interpreting this work, it's visible; The incredibly poor status of the globe that could develop after the apocalypse. Any type of crisis that people interpret as the end of the world is considered an apocalypse. While analysing this, an individual could realise the graveness of the circumstance and the way of preventing it. *The Midnight Sky* is a story about humankind in a post-apocalyptic world that took place entirely in an isolated Arctic and space. This is a sombre lament for a dying planet and a plea for the emergence of life elsewhere in the cosmos, gracefully switching between the Arctic and a mission coming home from Jupiter. Clooney presents a sobering appraisal of the price of environmental damage with an exceptional supporting cast at his side. Even though the movie has slight changes from the novel, it doesn't affect the creation at all. Movie literally brought justice by its production, it brought something more than imaginative eyes.

Good morning, Midnight by Lily Brooks Dalton is an impressive debut, which chiefly focuses on the characters and their inner conflicts in a collapsed world. The author gave a constant impression of life longing on the verge of existence yet assured that hope has always been there in an individual's instinct. And the willpower and determination will lead to fruition. At its core, the novel embraces realism by presenting vivid and authentic portrayals of the characters' struggles, emotions, and relationships. The reader is drawn into their lives, experiencing their joys, sorrows, and the harsh realities of a devastated world. The descriptive prose and attention to detail bring a sense of authenticity and believability to the narrative, grounding it in a recognizable reality. Dalton also introduces elements of wonder, introspection, and exploration that transcend the boundaries of everyday existence. Through

the characters' introspective journeys and encounters with the unknown, the novel delves into profound themes of isolation, connection, hope, and the search for meaning in a seemingly desolate world. It invites readers to reflect on the fragility of human existence, the power of human connections, and the vastness of the universe. The novel serves as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the capacity for imagination and wonder even in the face of adversity. Dalton's masterful storytelling transports readers to a world that is simultaneously familiar and otherworldly, prompting them to contemplate their own place in the universe and the mysteries that lie beyond.

The Midnight Sky, an adaptation of Lily Brooks-Dalton's novel *Good Morning, Midnight*, has provided valuable insights into the interplay between the real and the imagined, the present and the future, and the human condition in the face of apocalyptic scenarios. Throughout our exploration, we have seen how Realism and beyond Realism intertwine in the narrative, visuals, and themes presented in *The Midnight Sky*. The movie effectively blends the realistic portrayal of a post-apocalyptic world with elements that push the boundaries of reality, inviting us to contemplate the unknown and imagine the possibilities that lie ahead. The arctic settings, the vastness of space, and the challenges faced by the characters all contribute to creating a sense of both Realism and a departure from it. The character of Augustine, as the last man on Earth, embodies the struggle between realism and beyond Realism. His scientific background and pragmatic approach to survival ground the story in a sense of realism, while his introspective journey and encounters with the Aether mission members explore deeper themes of hope, isolation, and human connection that go beyond the confines of reality. Similarly, the Aether mission itself represents the intersection of Realism and imagination as the crew embarks on a voyage to a distant and potentially habitable moon. It has examined the significance of realism and beyond realism in *The Midnight Sky* and its literary source, *Good Morning, Midnight*. We have explored how the

fusion of these elements allows for a thought-provoking exploration of the human condition, the possibilities of the future, and the resilience of the human spirit in the face of apocalyptic circumstances. The study of Realism and beyond Realism in *The Midnight Sky* and its source novel has provided us with a rich and captivating exploration of the human experience, the potential of the future, and the resilience of the human spirit. As we continue to navigate our own uncertain times, these narratives serve as a reminder of the importance of hope, connection, and our collective responsibility to shape the world we inhabit.

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