

Appendix 1

The reader is provided with details of the 'happily-ever-after' between Joe and Clarissa yearned for at the close of the final chapter, with the conclusion of the research paper referring to 'R and M' being 'reconciled and later successfully [adopting] a child'. This kind of closure, hidden away obliquely in an appendix that perhaps many readers skip over, throws into doubt the seriousness of purpose of McEwan in writing one, yet it could be read as yet another meta-narrative, as Joe was highly self-conscious about when to begin his story, it is satisfying that the kind of alternative, rational and unemotional view of events in conclusion is offered at the novel's close (the way that Joe would have like to see and tie up events) as it represents the narrator finally having control in a way that he felt he had not from its outset.

Furthermore:

- Sense in which the details given of Parry's condition provide a deeper kind of finality and closure of events for the reader than any other possible ending - we felt with Joe that he was being subject to injustices on the part of the police, Clarissa etc (despite moments of our questioning his sanity, too) in disbelieving him, and this appendix offers a proof and an 'I told you so' on a grand scale.
- A voice is also finally given to Parry's past regarding his formative experiences with his fractured family etc, which not only contextualizes his condition and behaviour, but somehow balances the narrative by briefly extending its scope. Yet, there is a sense in which the narrative structure take on an imbalance with this in mind, as Clarissa's and Joe's past are gradually revealed to us throughout the novel, whereas Parry's is scurried away in an add-on section. Yet, this delay and suspense also in a way makes the reveal that more deeply satisfying for the reader, and such details about his early life would have softened the intensity of the threat he posed and his unsettling and enigmatic nature - with no past to speak of, there was no explanation, and thus fear.

Appendix 2

This letter reveals interesting details about the extent to which Parry's obsession has progressed, as he is apparently now able to receive messages of Joe's love and justification for his love - '...my thousandth letter, and you telling me that what I'm doing is right!' - without being in any kind of proximity to the object of his love. As such, a clear progression can be observed, from messages perceived through Joe's facial expression at the site of the balloon incident, to the movement of the curtain's at Joe's apartment, to what appears to be confirmation received through 'the sun [coming] up behind the trees'. Moreover, it appears that in an effort to deal with indefinite separation from Joe, his condition has developed so that the mission to convert has become all but one-sided, 'I'm earning our happiness day by day', with only a cursory and feeble plea to 'send [him] a message soon'. Previously, a good part of the distress caused by Parry involved his insisting that he take an unexplained active part in the imagined relationship. This thought cycle has evidently all but disappeared.