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Painting Identity in Painstaking Detail: A study of the role of art therapy on maladaptive clones towards the end of their thirty year lifespans

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Abstract

Clones are the nucleus of the workforce, but have until recent years been the greatest burden on our economy. Since the conception of the first human clones in 2047, their economic impact has been heavily scrutinised (Paul 2075; Albert 2078; Taylor 2080, Taylor 2081), particularly regarding the millions funnelled into perfecting the biotechnology behind their creation. This longitudinal study focuses on five clones screened at the age of seventeen. This study probes the selected clones' early lives, work, contributions to society, hospital costs, and deaths, closing with a dissection of the "clone misery art" industry. This industry has exponentially increased in popularity since the mid-70s, multiplying in profitability as the maladaptive clone population declines. This study ultimately identifies, through examining the socio-historical conditions of this burgeoning population, areas for medico-social improvements and structural changes in anticipation of any future clone-specific maladaptation.

Keywords

maladaptive clone generation, work conditions, clone misery art

Introduction

2047 saw arguably the greatest shift in human history with the creation of clones. Much has been written about the ethical implications of their creation (Baty 2045, Roslin 2059, May 2078), changes in human relations (Ronson 2066), their role in society and policy formation (Smith 2064), and the brief period of deficit created in the North American economy resulting from perfecting cloning biotechnology. This research paper responds to the limited lifespans of the clones produced in the first thirty years: one in three had abnormal gene expression due to complications in somatic cell nuclear transfer, and many had shortened telomeres (DNA sequences at both ends of a chromosome) resulting from an aged transferred nucleus. Huxley's (2075) autopsies of prematurely deceased clones revealed nearly half of the successfully created clones had abnormally large organs, insufficient immune systems, or brain abnormalities. The limitations in genetic diversity also had complications when clones encountered late twenty-first century super-viruses: several batches of clones have been wiped out by viral strains none were biologically capable of resisting (Klon & Woodend 2069). Genetic complications prior to perfection were estimated to affect as many as fifty per cent of clones (Prior 2068; Huxley 2075). Early illness and death, particularly in the twenty-five to thirty age bracket, resulted in a reduction of clone's economic benefit, and strained medical system resources. Funding to clone medical treatment programs has slowed in recent years due to increased biotechnological perfection; increased genetic scrutiny and enforced genetic screening at birth has shown only 0.7% of clones produced in the last five years display traces of deficiency. As a result, the demand for global treatment centres has reduced, especially as the last few deficient clones from initial batches expire. This paper uses a case study approach to argue that funding, however reduced, is still needed to maintain living standards for remaining affected clones, and future deficient clones.

This sociological study focuses on the life experience of clones with genetic dysfunction, using a case study of five clones screened regularly from the ages of seventeen through to their deaths. Our research team examined their working roles within society, education, relations to originals, socioeconomic status, personality types, medical treatment, and the role art therapy played in the years preceding their deaths. Examining this small cross-section, the research hopes to increase understanding into methods the humanities can use to help effected clones reach fulfilment, why the rate of clonal suicide is high, and what

methods clones take to optimise their lifespan. It examines the role of health practitioners, medical professionals, and the care sector in treating declining clones, and infers funding needs. This should benefit all economically, while increasing the care, dignity, social conditions and lives available for clones.

Studies (Ronson & Smith 2068) reveal the financial strain resulting from unproductive clones causes further tension in the already tenuous clone/original relationship. One clone, Caryl, expressed the sentiment that the loss of financial backing had motivated her to “hold on” longer out of spite. This could not be statistically validated. Regardless, by the end of their lives, only two clones were able to afford pain-alleviating medication. The rest were put on a publically-funded medical treatment register, kept in crowded public hospitals, received care from overworked doctors, and made to participate in experimental clinical studies to receive funding. One of the clones, April, reacted negatively to the treatment, as detailed below, but had to continue with the trial to receive painkillers and a hospital bed.

Design

The sample of this case study was extremely small, and cannot be effectively generalised to the wider clone population. However, this limitation was deliberate in order to facilitate in-depth study of the everyday lived experience of clones. A shorter, concurrent study of Europe’s maladaptive clone population (Narscissa & Wilson 2080) with a much larger sample size (11,063), undertaken by the Cloning Institute of Vienna, broadly examined the intersections of economic and medical cost of clones against their long-term economic and social benefit on humans. It concluded that once medical problems are reduced, the benefits of the system will be huge for “humans”, due to increased leisure time and structural benefits. It was supported by numerous research grants, and aligned with The Greater European Coalition for Advanced Cloning Management. Conclusions drawn have since been disputed on ethical grounds (Miller 2081).

The method for choosing clones was based on random allocation. The process involved accessing the English database of clones, and then generating a field of fifty who met the parameters of the study, with medical data indicating traces of pathology. We eliminated healthy clones as their experience was not relevant to our research questions.

From there, we asked potential participants if they wanted to be involved in the study, informing them of its nature, design and funding to obtain informed consent. Five agreed. The research initially aimed for no selection bias, however the nature of the study may have attracted a certain personality type to consenting. The researchers acknowledge that this sample size is small. However, given the selection processes and our limited funding, it was difficult to track a larger set of clones over the fourteen-year period.

The research had been funded for the first ten years by the French Institute of Advanced Cloning. The final four years were self-funded, with monies collected from cloning benefactors, and crowd-funding. This put strains on our resources, and the three surviving clones did not receive an adequate standard of care in their final years. There was little our financially-strained research team could do beyond record our observations.

Our data comes primarily from observation, self-reports, medical reports, and media studies. Dr Ally Klooni, a recently appointed research fellow, oversaw the research team's investigations. Participants were interviewed weekly. The research team also liaised with doctors treating the clones. Two researchers were allocated to each clone, monitoring their physical, mental, and living conditions. Only one researcher was unable to continue with the study. Further, in this study, qualitative data was privileged over quantitative in order to provide more intimate details to the public and policy makers, "humanising" the clones, which are often stigmatised.

In the past, media bias gave "wealthy" clones more coverage when discussing clones, with those from lower socio-economic backgrounds treated as a mass, either scorned or reduced to objects of pity. The last five years has seen greater challenge to these representations, particularly after the establishment of the Coalition for Clone Rights (2077). However, these efforts are minimal, with most leaning towards the "poor, mindless mass-produced clone" narrative. Most focus on treating unjust symptoms of the system, such as span of hours, rather than addresses structural injustice.

Study population

Five clones composed this study, all of English descent. They are given pseudonyms in this study to protect their and their original's anonymity: Evelyn Waters (2051–2078), Caryl

Carathers (2051–2082), April (2051–2079), Juliet Saunders (2051–2074), and William Tully (2051–2081).

Background of originals

All clones were produced using somatic cell nuclear transfer and carried to term in the wombs of various surrogates. However, the circumstances surrounding their cloning were radically different. Evelyn Waters was produced by grieving parents following the loss of their child to leukaemia. Cloned from the preserved cells of Bailey Waters, Evelyn's life-expectancy was predicted to be low. Despite this, her parents took the risk: the advances made in recent years with treating leukaemia gave her an increased chance of survival, and the Waters' little girl lived again due to early intervention. Unlike the other clones, she never had a chance to meet the sponsor responsible for giving her life. By all accounts, Bailey Waters was a lively and energetic young girl before succumbing to cancer at age seven.

Juliet Saunders, in contrast, was created in a bulk lot of eight clones (all of whom succumbed within two weeks of each other to the same virus), derived from the genes of a new-born baby (referred to for confidentiality's sake as Haley). This was done to produce healthier clones unaffected by alleged aging cell problems. Drawing the ire of moralists, this procedure was conducted with full consent of the parents. The mother, Dr K, was a leading biotechnological scientist at the Belgium Institute of gene therapy. Haley was raised with her eight younger sisters in Herve, before moving back to Malmesbury after Dr K accepted a position at the University of Exeter. Haley is currently still alive, having been given the life-saving treatment needed to fight off the virus that killed her siblings, and holds a MSc in Natural Sciences from the University of Exeter.

The only male from the sample, William Tully, was commercially cloned. His original, Bill Tully, won the 2051 "Have Yourself Cloned" competition, a tabloid-sponsored (*Daily Independent*) lottery run from 2049 to 2054. Putting some strain on the family resources, William was raised as a brother to Bill, and, as they had similar upbringings (they were treated identically, given the same tools, books, television programs, diet), they began to mirror each other before William's commencement in the manual-labour intensive clone work scheme. Despite similarities, William's interest in Bill's hand-me-down pulp comics far

exceeded that of his original. Bill currently lives in Leeds with his wife and two children while working as an auto-electrician.

Caryl and April were cloned from the same stock. Their original, the acclaimed Dr Winona Prior, cloned them from her own DNA. Prior was an innovative researcher responsible for creating the first successful human clone. As part of this work, Prior implanted the clones into two separate surrogates from different backgrounds in a “self-directed nature/nurture vanity project,” barely approved by her institute’s ethics committee. In the past, she received awards for her role in advancing gene therapy techniques, making breakthroughs in gene therapy’s use in multigene disorders, particularly heart disease and arthritis. On top of her pioneering work, she has been a research consultant for integrating clones into society, and advocated the manual-intensive clone work scheme which has fundamentally changed the nature of the workforce and leisure hours of humans. During the course of this research, we met with her twice to get her opinions on her clones, once at the commencement of the project, when she was a leading scholar, and once after her fall into disgrace: both times she was an imposing, articulate, and highly rational individual. On a personal level, we found her to be a⁷ misunderstood genius.⁸

Childhood and schooling of the clones

The education and socialisation process of clones has been reported to be streamlined towards economic efficiency; a correlation has been found between the higher mass-production of clones and less educational access and investment (Stepford 2071). Clones that are created in batches of one to four have the most access to resources, and are in general treated better than those with many siblings. This has been hypothesised to result from negative perception of interchangeability and uncanniness (Dredd 2075). Certainly, a high incidence of discrimination existed against those deemed “common cogs,” but this has decreased in recent years (Ronson 2066; Miho 2079).

As a singular clone, produced as a family member and not as a workplace drone, Evelyn received a high degree of education before entering the workforce, which was

⁷ Thirty words removed in peer-review.

⁸ This phrase is a peer amendment.

interrupted by leukaemia treatment. Due to her inevitable illness, and protective parents, the predominant form of education was home-schooling from the age of four through to twelve. She felt “guilty for making them almost relive Bailey’s death twice,” but both parents felt secure that the advances in medicine would ensure they would not lose Bailey a second time. Her role as a janitor, a reasonably un-taxing form of clone labour, was secured by her parents and began immediately after leaving school. Both parents accepted no preferential treatment should be given to her. She still had a clone status, and was needed for society to function optimally; the education system framed it in terms of social necessity.

Juliet, an anomaly among multi-clones, also received a well-grounded education alongside her siblings at Mercy Specialised Academy, a practical institute set up exclusively for clones. This provided the best in-workforce integrated learning complimentary to the standard humanist education. Excelling among her siblings, she was described by several teachers at the institute as “bright,” “popular,” and “gifted,” but with a “penchant for mischief” and lack of interest in practical study, preferring the sociability of the classroom. This led to the securing of a position as a babysitter for several high-ranking human families, caring labour seen as one of the lowest forms of work. Her almost identical age to her charges, combined with her natural affability, enabled her to form close attachments to insulated children whose high social standing otherwise prevented friendships outside of the regular monitored internet channels.

William undertook public schooling, where he was an unremarkable student, content to read pulp comics in class and doodle on his notebooks, rather than take actual notes. Like his brother, he was not particularly strong at Maths or Science, but excelled at Physical Education and English. He was reportedly relieved to enter the Clone Work Scheme after being expelled following confrontations with a teacher over a contraband comic. His brother educated him in relation to story creation, how to graffiti, charm girls, and fix cars. Unfortunately, he had little opportunity to use any of these skills, save for machine repair, after entering the workforce. He was quickly indoctrinated into manual labour, and proved adept in developing the required physical skills. By his sixteenth birthday, he was ranked among the strongest workers in the factory, according to Human Resource Reports (2067).

Caryl was a child prodigy. Adept in six languages by the time she was twelve, she displayed a grandiose sense of self and desire to explore the world, taking a keen interest in natural sciences and rudimentary physics. She was privately tutored by teachers from France,

Switzerland and Peru. They were of the highest calibre Winona Prior could afford. Caryl won junior prizes in Mathematics, Geography, Science, and English, and was already looking at universities by her twelfth birthday. All of the tutors have gone on record to say she was “a genius,” though some added she was also confrontational, aggressively antisocial, and emotionally detached. When forced into the Clone Work Scheme, she expressed disbelief and outrage. Her initial training period was in a group of other young clones, who reported that she spoke to them only with task-related inquiries. Of the eight clones in her group, two have passed away, and of those interviewed only one had a nice thing to say about her: “Many times I observed her looking at us with great concentration as if trying to decipher our inner workings. I do not think she wanted to avoid us. She did not seem to know how rude she was, or why she was disliked.”

April, described by Winona as Caryl’s inverse, had a deliberately different childhood. Raised by a largely subversive bohemian family, little emphasis was put on education. Her “parents,” both musicians with a history of substance abuse, introduced her to self-expressive forms such as music and art. Like Caryl, she was particularly adept at piano, but she displayed a preference for Jazz, whereas Caryl excelled at everything and preferred silence. Possessing a curiosity encouraged by her “parents,” she began writing her own music and explored her hometown with self-confessed “wild abandon,” wandering across counties bird-watching. Altogether, she attended thirty-six days of classes over six years at the local primary school. She learned, instead, from the stories of people passing through her house, rigorous worldly observation, and a large collection of books from the second-hand bookstore down the road. Unfortunately, this education did not lead to applicable skills. April displayed deficient logical reasoning and problem-solving skills, and a tendency towards daydreaming, fantasy and risk-taking behaviour, all unbecoming for a clone. Working at her own pace, she had nothing but kind words and empathy for others, clone and non-clone, going out of her way to help them achieve goals when outside of her thoughts. She even displayed gratitude to medical professionals after poor service. As a result, she was deemed “unremarkable” and a “failure” in today’s society when compared to Caryl. She is the clone who remains the biggest enigma and the one this paper struggled to reconstruct due to being such an anomaly against the task-focused clones we researchers had previously interacted with.

Attitude towards work

Clones have been bred for a purpose: to fulfil the work required to ensure society's optimum functioning. Even those initially born and raised with the intention of "filling in" for a lost human are eventually pushed towards this purpose by a steady political regime enforcing the methodological separation of clone from human (Johnston & Johnson 2078). Studies have concluded a higher rate of fulfilment and sense of achievement among working clones than those unable to fulfil this basic function (Liberty 2071). At the start of every work day, clones are asked to participate in thanking their creators for their life, and their employers for giving them work. There has recently been a 0.03% unemployment rate among clones, the highest it has ever been (Laurel 2080). This resulted from mass-firing in response to rioting for better working conditions and life opportunities. Very few clones were actually involved in these demonstrations, the complaints predominantly rising from pro-clone Leftists, and these spikes in unemployment are on the decline. Most clones feel the need to fulfil their function at the expense of personal freedoms and self-determination; many say they could not imagine a world without their labour, expressing confusion and fear at alternatives.

These were the attitudes of the clones in the study, with only one, Caryl, expressing the subversive desire that she was made for something more, displaying hostility towards both researchers and co-workers. This has been attributed to the exclusively liberal nature of her schooling. Ironically, her fellow clone April expressed the most optimism towards life and work: "It's painful and draining [working in manufacturing], but it makes those moments where everything has slowed down and is at peace, typically the five minutes before falling asleep, all the sweeter. Those brief moments [of respite] get me through the work, as does the knowledge I am contributing to society and helping people have the best manufacturing products possible."

The most common forms of work for clones are labour-intensive factory jobs, often involving manufacturing or fixing the machines necessary to society, from computers to cars and other appliances (Freeman 2069). The clones of this study had a wider variety of work compared to the usual standard of clones, with Juliet particularly having a more personable job—babysitting—typically unavailable to clones. The households she worked at were large, modern, open-spaces, as reserved for humans, with plenty of access to food, drink and resources inaccessible to most clones. The variety of children she babysat varied widely, typically responding to her based on their parent's attitudes towards cloning. Some were

sympathetic playmates, particularly those lacking access to other humans, but most were indifferent, treating her as another mechanised function of the house, designed simply to meet their every need. Juliet rigorously maintained a diary recording every incident during the day, perhaps as a form of experience résumé, or as a personal account of her lived experience—though the latter is highly unlikely if popular beliefs about clones lack of self-reflective abilities are indeed true (Fabio 2077). More than sufficient counter-evidence exists in Juliet’s logs. From this diary, three incidents stand out as manifesting her precarious position—one involved the terror and confusion of a child who witnessed one of Juliet’s siblings visit her. The second incident involved being set on fire by a curious child who disregarded her emotional reaction as “curiously human, but not quite.” The third was an alleged incident involving one father after her nineteenth birthday. The act seriously damaged her sense of bodily autonomy, but the details cannot be recounted here as there was never a legal conviction. Nevertheless, according to popular and political logic such complaints do not detract from the “fact” that her position was less taxing than that of the others with no cause for complaint.

April and William, despite never meeting before the study, worked in the same building for Innovative Manufacturing Corps. Described by the developers as a “cost-cutting death-trap,” it had “loose cables, frequent power outages, exposed wires, and cramped conditions, with clones assembled shoulder-to-shoulder: 3000 in a building with 2700 maximum capacity.” A typical workday involved getting up at 3.30am; arrival at work by 4am; assembling products and correcting product faults until 10am; 10am–12pm involved lifting heavy stock to get it in place for the next assembly shift; 12pm–3pm was spent on machine repair and corrections. This all involved physically injurious lifting, soldering with outdated machinery in close proximity to others, and incidents of falling into machines. 3pm–8pm involved a second assemblage shift, followed by two hours of getting materials and stock in place for the following morning shift. A majority of this work used to be done by machines, until the Machine Protection Act (2060) was implemented by engineers to “reduce costs” of machine manufacture and failure, and due to “pro-machine” sentiment, which seems ironic given the mechanised and subhuman treatment of copied humans but reveals the extent of anti-clone propaganda. It was a common practice of the factory to have new workers, young and small, working inside machines to make corrections, and working long hours in assemblage sections that required fine motor skills, before being upgraded to heavy

lifting with age. Workers were typically clones from lower socio-economic areas, and were more likely to succumb to disease. They would be worked until their bodies gave out and they retired or succumbed to illness. The longest serving clone lived to fifty-eight, retiring at forty-four.

Caryl worked in strenuous, cramped conditions in mines, usually on yearly contracts, in Peru, Argentina, Botswana, Borneo, Canada, Australia, and Mexico, before retiring and returning to England at twenty-three. She worked alongside machines and a team excavating the earth and extracting important resources for manufacturing purposes. Many strikes have been put against her working career; she regularly abandoned her posts to explore and map the conditions of the surrounding areas—though these personal adventure logs were appropriated by her employers for future expeditions and project expansions. Caryl briefly quit, but within six weeks had been forced to return to work following the event of Winona financially freezing her accounts. Her employers mourn her death as she was, despite significant flaws, among the hardest workers, who refined many of the advanced mining techniques Earth Progress Corp. made famous. Working labour intensive eighteen-hour days, Caryl abhorred sleep and being non-productive, but simultaneously detested working for the corporation.

Evelyn's work was not quite as labour-intensive, but the constant grind and repetition, when combined with long hours, produced various physical problems. These included hand tremors, hypertension, back pain, and the beginnings of arthritis. Her role involved cleaning hospitals during the week, a job she took pride in as pivotal to maintaining sick people's health. Ironically, the very hospital she worked for was the hospital she was eventually interred in. She was reported to get on well with co-workers and had a positive work environment, although this information may be biased as it came from the staff with whom we worked in close proximity.

Ambition at start of work versus end of retirement

Before work, optimism and hope towards life was exhibited by several of the clones (April, Evelyn, Juliet), alongside the belief they could break the system (Caryl) and the belief they could have another career (William). Over time, they mimicked the typical condition of clones in the workforce: the personalities of clones are found to converge and become

essentially one, as if the labour prevents them from maintaining personal integrity. They took on a mechanised character, signing in and out of work with barely any response throughout the day. Every second Sunday, upon being permitted a rest day, they displayed something resembling individuality outside the influence of the collective. By the end, cracks began to show, but all possessed the same uniformly drained, exhausted behaviour. The predominant form of pleasure was in sleep and inaction.

Before commencing work, Evelyn wanted to be a soccer player. After recovering from her first bout of illness, she worked towards the ambition as only a child could—“tr[ying] hard, run[ning] after every ball, [with] little sense of self-awareness” as her community soccer coach⁹ reported. After that, she wanted to be a doctor, “and then maybe an astronaut if I had time,” but on consideration, she eventually reported that all she wanted was to make her parents proud.

Juliet wanted to start a family of her own, either via reproduction with a partner (impossible), or surrogating more clones—she loved her family, and sought to expand that love even further. Beyond that, she wanted to be a teacher, as she loved interacting with other children and teaching them life-skills.

Caryl “wanted it all”. Work and illness barely changed this; she only amended the ambition towards the end with the desire for “respect.”

Will notably wanted to be a comic artist—his work, scrawled during treatment and in the ten-minute commute to work, has now achieved a cult following. His only complete series, *Automaton Man*, follows the semi-autobiographical adventures of an android that breaks through the system and liberates the masses. The first edition, written at eleven, has recently sold for \$3500 in Colorado. His work output dramatically decreased during his working life, but re-emerged during hospitalisation. However, this work was notably more subdued, and lacked the vitality and optimism of his pre-hospital work.

April decided to be a musician, “a slightly greater ambition than wanting to be a cat.” She then dedicated her life to the three Fs—Friends, Food, Film. She wanted to explore the world, make good art, be a good friend, make a positive impact on those she came across, and produce good stories that could broaden people’s worldviews. She “never felt she completed these objectives.”

⁹ Name removed for confidentiality purposes

Disorder

The clones underwent genome sequencing in 2068 at seventeen. It was found that Caryl and April had the same shortened telomeres, as expected from identical clones. Winona Prior was “¹⁰displeased” by the deficiency and refused all contact soon after, collecting reports from secondary parties on their conditions to maintain her own studies. This disorder eventually resulted in the loss of an A-G pair which greatly impaired their cell division. April accepted the news with customary good will, thanking us for funding the test. She maintained her self-deprecating humour (“I am going to die because my cells can’t spell”), but excused herself from the room when we did not laugh. My research partner reported he heard muffled sounds, which he concluded were sobs, but this could not be validated: April returned to the room with her traditional smile. Caryl took the news far worse, fleeing the hospital and stealing a car, an incident reported online (see *The Daily Event*, *Daily Independent*, *The Exciting Times*). We inferred she had gone into shock. Their process of deterioration mimicked one another’s: hair loss; teeth, toenails and fingernails falling out; gradual organ failure; and respiratory difficulty. April, however, volunteered for experimental treatment, knowing it was dangerous but naively hoping the techniques could be refined for the benefit of others. Her body, already slightly weaker from its different womb development, declined at a faster rate than Caryl’s.

Juliet was found to have a fault in her gene expression, shared between her seven cloned siblings, and original, that eventually resulted in liver problems. She experienced extreme fatigue, nausea, weight loss, and jaundiced yellowing of the skin and eyes, which made the teenager extremely self-conscious and unwilling to go outdoors. Sunglasses eventually corrected this. April began wearing them after Juliet’s unfortunate early passing. Juliet and the siblings may have lived longer, but a virus spread through the hospital; they stood no chance and died within two weeks of each other, much to the horror of their “parents” who could only afford to provide emergency medication and treatment to Haley, who continues to live with a monitored liver condition.

¹⁰ Expletive removed.

William was initially what they would call in the early 1900s a “strapping young man.” Six-foot-tall, with broad shoulders, blond hair, and a proud bearing, by the end of his first round of treatment he was stooped and bruised, his hair and teeth had fallen out in patches, and split skin proliferated around his joints. His particular affliction involved large organ syndrome, leading to abnormal blood-flow (which often led to disorientation and contributed to breathing difficulty), and the development of a brain malformation resulted in incoherent speech for the last six months prior to his death.

Evelyn was free from these disorders; however, a particularly vicious relapse of leukaemia left her bedridden and terminal. Despite the advances in medicine that had saved her life the first time, her body was weakened by work and the first occurrence of the disease. She is survived by the Waters.

Internal haemorrhaging hit several of the clones in the weeks prior to death. Before this, nosebleeds and bleeding from the ears were frequent. Delirium, feverishness, paleness, disorientation, and painful sleep were recurrent states. Intravenous drips became essentially a life-preserving, integral part of their bodies.

Role of art therapy during hospitalisation

As mentioned previously, our research funding lasted for ten years, by which time Juliet and Evelyn had died. In this time, the clones also received the highest degree of hospice care, having access to advanced and experimental treatments, twenty-four-hour care, the best in medication and painkillers, and humane treatment by nurses and doctors. This included access to television, books, companionship, good hospital food, meditation and light physio programs, art classes and other forms of therapeutic outlets. Upon funding for our research program coming to an end, we had to move from Doppelganger Mercy Central to the public, understaffed Hope West Hospital, where recreational activities were no longer available. It was found that the clones, particularly April, deteriorated rapidly at this point. Evelyn received better treatment from the nurses due to her ex-co-worker status. They spent their final years receiving minimal treatment outside of experimental trials.

The clones responded positively to art therapy, as measured through increased responsiveness and emotional expression. Our research would seem to suggest that any clone in palliative care should have art classes subsidised to ease their passing, although the

financial viability of this may make the recommendation untenable. April, in particular, responded well to being allowed access to paints again after over a decade of work, creating works that have, since her passing, sold for millions. Empathetic Maladaptive Clone Art (EMCA), sometimes derogatorily shortened to “Pathetic Maladaptive Clone Art” or “Clone Misery Art” has become iconic of this era, where clone lives were turbulent and short. Detractors have cited this as problematic misery-mongering and, death-profiteering, but it has statistically increased empathy to the experience. Clone art, originally derided as “hollow reproductions,” became valued in the cultural imaginary. April’s work, which often involved short, jerky brush-strokes (described by one art critic as “futile stabs at the fabric”), recycled newspaper clippings concerning clones and vapid marketing slogans, images of long-dead celebrities, and the same muted purple and blue colour scheme, is now found in art museums. Museumgoers can also purchase their own art books, ekphrastic stories, reproductions, vintage mobile-phone cases, t-shirts, and mugs featuring her work from the gift-store.

Music and audiobooks recorded by other clones have had less market success, the clones typically rasping or struggling to play instruments, resulting in less interest. As one reviewer of an album noted “no-one wants to hear somebody dying.” The visual mediums have had more success. This extended to Will’s comics, which became the only means of communication with the outside world after his brain malformation caused him to be unable to speak. His later works, while notably tired, less vibrant and lacking in the details of previous graphics, have a devoted fan-base and more critical success, with most critics agreeing there is a vulnerability and earnestness in his last few strips missing from his previous work. His graffiti is also renowned and reproduced, noted for its daring mix of bold colour and impressionism, a seemingly clashing palette intended to “jolt the complacency out of the viewer.” His messages of “fuck this pain” and “I just want to die,” believed to speak to the human condition, have been taken up as an anthem by today’s youth: its lack of refinement, said to result from his short life and lack of training, appeals to the masses (Victorian 2081).

Conclusion

Hospital bills, the cost of producing clones, and protests against the Clone Work Scheme, have led to questions regarding clones’ value for money. However, it seems almost

inarguable they have made positive contributions to the sense of exceptionalism, and lifestyles of “humans” at the expense of their own lives. Their positive impact in the domains of art, “menial” workforce, and caring economy cannot be understated. Furthermore, increases in cloning technology have overcome earlier deficiencies in clones. Winona Prior, and those Institutes responsible for these first batches of clones, have been found accountable for their deaths and have agreed to pay any hospital debts incurred. Artworks produced by clones have, however, contributed to significantly ameliorate these accounts. The last few deficient clones have almost expired, so the problems concerning cloning reported on in this study will hopefully be of concern for little longer. However, studies such as this nevertheless provide a necessary historical document, showing the atrocities of the past in humankind’s attempts to push forward while ignoring potential consequences.

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