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Surveys the reviews of Ishiguro's first novel. After examining the tendency to read Ishiguro as a Japanese author, the chapter outlines Gregory Mason's work on the influence of Japanese film on Ishiguro's fiction and presents the debate between those who read this novel as a sociological or historical primer and those who deny this approach, including the role of Nagasaki in the novel. The chapter then turns to the novel's reticence, the various ways of reading the relationship between the characters Etsuko and Sachiko, the novel's connection of guilt and ghosts, and the novel's imagery.

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