The novel begins in the Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre, where human beings are mass-produced in test tubes. The Director of the Centre leads a group of students through the building to show them how every stage of development is rigidly controlled. After being born, or 'decanted' as it's called in this society, the children are conditioned according to their respective social classes. Lower-class babies are trained to be mindless workers and are given electric shocks when they reach for books in order to terrify them away from reading. This is our first clue that everything is not so perfect in this so-called perfect world. As they grow older, children in the lab are conditioned to indulge themselves in physical pleasure. They constantly take a drug called soma. In addition, everyone is taught that they should have sex with as many different people as possible; after all, everyone belongs to everyone else.

But all the world is not this sterile and amoral. As the novel progresses, two workers from the Centre, Lenina Crowne and Bernard Marx, take a vacation together to a Savage Reservation in New Mexico. Life there is completely different from the civilized society in London, and Bernard and Lenina watch the people as if they were strange creatures at the zoo. Lenina is especially horrified; the Savage Reservation seems filthy to her. The sight of two women nursing their babies nearly makes her sick. She tries watching a religious ceremony, comparing it to the orgies back in London. However, when the savages start handling snakes and whipping each other to make blood offerings, she becomes hysterical and desperate for her soma.

Bernard is more surprised to come across Linda, a civilized woman who has been living on the reservation for about 25 years. She had also come to the reservation on vacation but had gotten lost and been trapped there ever since. Even after all this time, she has not adapted to the savage lifestyle and is desperate to get back to civilization. But when Bernard gets permission to bring her and her son back to London, she finds that she doesn't fit in there either. The other citizens are disgusted by the fact that she has given birth like an animal. She soon overdoses on soma.

Linda's son, John, doesn't fit into society either. Even though he had been unhappy on the Savage Reservation, he still has a lot of savage values. He doesn't believe in taking drugs, and he thinks people should be monogamous. He thinks civilized society is completely immoral. Civilized society, however, thinks that John is fascinating. In a world that has tried to make everything and everyone exactly the same, he is different, and everyone wants to know more about him. In the end, he can't stand it and goes off to live alone in a lighthouse. Unfortunately, reporters come to interview him, and hundreds of people come to stare at him. Unable to take the pressure, John commits suicide.
Setting:

**Central London Hatchery**
The Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre is the first setting of the story. It is a cross between a factory and laboratory where human beings are mass produced in test tubes. It is a sterile environment, completely devoid of humanity. Huxley describes hundreds of test tubes, nurses covered in severe white uniforms, and the constant hum of machinery. The people here are just as robotic as the machines; they are conditioned to accept society's standards without question or critical thought. The Centre represents the triumph of technology over humanity, yet Huxley uses it to show the idea that technology can be dehumanizing.

**The Savage Reservation**
The Savage Reservation is located in the middle of the desert in New Mexico and shows the other extreme: the complete rejection of technology. Huxley describes a dirty, inhospitable village where the people have lice and let dead animals lie in the street. The whole reservation is centered on religion; ceremonies are held in the town square where all the people can attend. However, the ceremonies are dangerous and violent. The people handle deadly snakes and offer blood sacrifices. In this way, Huxley shows that eliminating technology and ignoring basic science can be just as degrading.

**The Lighthouse**
The Lighthouse is the final setting for the story. It is located at the top of a hill in the woods and is where John moves when he becomes disgusted with civilization. John had been unable to appreciate both the cold technology of civilization and the rough life of the savages. However, at the lighthouse, he manages to balance both. He appreciates his supplies and even the lights of the skyscrapers in the distance, but he also revels in the solitude. He feels that now he can atone for the sins he thought he committed in civilization. He punishes himself and offers his blood in sacrifice. While this may seem extreme to us, it brings him peace. Through peaceful and beautiful images of the lighthouse, Huxley shows that balancing technology and religion can lead to happiness. When civilization upsets that balance again, with citizens stalking John and broadcasting his every move, he commits suicide.
These notes are only for quick reference and must be referred along with Arpita’s Audio Lectures for better understanding.

Aldous Huxley’s
BRAVE NEW WORLD
(Short Summary)

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