Natalie Beecher

First, I want to celebrate the fact that my prediction was totally RIGHT. Granted, Archie didn’t shoot *himself* in the leg, but Dr. Sick was totally alive. There’s one thing I found strange about the Future Mouse© presentation scene. Midway through the novel, Marcus tells Irie that “with a mentor you needn’t credit them directly. That’s the great thing about them” (280). But during the presentation, Marcus spoke so much about his mentor’s (Dr. Sick) contributions that “The way Marcus is going on, sounds like the old bloke did everything” (440).

Actually, the more I think about it like this, the more sense it makes. Marcus met that girl in the airport who’d been reading his book, and who found the implications of the Future Mouse© experiment strange and scary. Perhaps he realized that he would get a lot of negative attention if he claimed to have sole ownership of their accomplishments, and by giving his mentor so much credit, he pushed the blame onto him. I think that sounds reasonable, but I honestly didn’t view Marcus as the kind of character who was self-aware enough to notice that other people would so strongly against the experiment. Of course, he was aware that not everyone viewed the world as he did, but to notice enough to not desire the credit for the experiment? Questionable.

I still don’t have answers for my thought above, but I have more to talk about now. Someone in class briefly mentioned Irie’s sudden epiphany during the FutureMouse© scene that she was looking forward to a future where roots didn’t matter—and she didn’t care about who her child’s father was. James Wood also mentioned this. Similar to Marcus, I really don’t think that Irie could have made this decision so quickly or so suddenly. Only a few dozen pages before this scene, Irie was obsessed with finding out the secrets of her family’s past, claiming them as her own. With Archie, even, too! He spent the entire novel being incapable of making decisions on his own, but suddenly he didn’t even hesitate, not even for a moment, to save Dr. Sick’s life. It’s not that I don’t like how the story ended, it’s just that I don’t think that there was enough background or foreshadowing established for such sudden bursts of character development.