

The Grey Maple

As I lay here I recount everything that has happened and everything we've been through. When the war ended in 2009 time just seemed to...stop the capital along with our military bases were erased from time, the virus..that damn disease was still killing hundreds every day, and to "stop the spread" they split the country into eight districts and all I know about them is that all of them are run differently from each other. When I was born in District 01 on 10/18/2030 the district was already split into classes and I was born into the middle class where my family was on the verge of being kicked to the lower class.

From my house, I could see the clouded rainbow dome separating the upper class from my own as the security drones patrol the border even though I was only six at the time I still know that it would be impossible for me to go there large armed walls surround every class to make sure no one goes where they shouldn't and no one knows what happens if you break this rule. Walking to school always felt a bit weird, the security drones wheezing past, the oddly sweet smell that gave me a euphoric feeling of happiness. It's a shame that back then I didn't know it was a tragedy in disguise under a calming scent, and maybe if that poster didn't fall in front of me that day...I wouldn't be in this mess

The poster wasn't like the other ones lining the streets promoting "Epiphany" "the drug of true serenity" now every time I see those propaganda posters all I think about is what the drug took from us. The poster lying in front of me had scratched out letters on the top it took me a minute to read but when I finally found out it said R-E-M-E-M-B-R-A-N-C-E.

I never thought about those posters until a few years ago when I started to learn the truth. I remember talking to an older man when I started working at Grey Maple Mental Asylum the older man spoke of lies and stories about a...war? I wanted to believe him but I just didn't think I could. That same day I told my boss about him and his stories...I really wish I could have spoken to him again before he disappeared.

That year a girl approached me and said her name was Charlotte. She said that we used to go to school together and how we were close friends. This was one of the rare occurrences where I remembered something. She talked about the old man in grey maple and said how he was telling the truth I didn't believe her so she brought me to a group of warehouses on the edge of the slums called Cinderlock Harbor a group of people was hiding there calling themselves the Remembrance they spoke about how they were dedicated to revealing the truth connecting the dots of what little I could remember I believed them and after that experience, I joined the rebellion in secret.

I moved to the lower class area everyone said it was dangerous because of the virus but...was it really? Did Epiphany even work for keeping the virus out? God who even knows now. Remembrance made an impossible move into the middle-class area stealing containers full of Epiphany and hiding them deep underground. Everything after that went from being insane to truly inhumane, security was heightened to abnormal amounts officers on almost every block cameras and drones constantly patrolling and search lights close to every border every night. People were going missing and dying in every class just because they were thought to be a part of the remembrance...how did we come to this.

We learned about how there are people in control of each district and that they were all run differently except for district 00 before this none of us have ever even heard of this district and we couldn't find anything about it except for where it was....right in the middle of all of the districts. Whoever runs that district must be the person in control. The leader of our district was Archer Malchivich and he along with all of the other spoiled brats lived in the upper class. We learned that he was holding a meeting of some sort to further expand

security and drug production. Charlotte suggested that we mess up their operations by stealing more Epiphany but first we have to recruit more people to help us. We had many people from within Grey Maple want to join us and with their numbers, we were up to 683 members of remembrance. I don't know why but I felt courage for our upcoming plans. People within the rebellion started causing distractions within every district while me, Charlotte, and the leader of the remembrance Oliver snuck into the upper-class when we entered the area underneath the dome everything felt cheery and bright the sky was rainbow and colorful unlike the outer classes there were hospitals and schools and quickly started remembering everything they have done to us for this feeling, this color. We made our way toward the new capital within the area, a brightly lit monstrous building overtook us with awe. Before we went in, Charlotte told us that we needed gas masks because of how strong the drug might be inside the building, it made sense so we each took a gas mask and went in. We slowly slipped up the stairs to the 15th floor where we were approached by a man with a taller stature, black hair, and violet eyes. We knew who this was because of the files we found months ago....the person who was standing in front of us was Archer the director of district 01. He had a wide grimace smile reaching across his face as panels in the walls broke open and an epiphany started to leak from the walls. I thought we were going to be safe but then I realized.....how is it getting into my mask? People around me started coughing and collapsing and eventually, I did too but as I looked up I saw Charlotte standing there eyes bewildered but....why was she laughing with him?