

Cities of Other Worlds



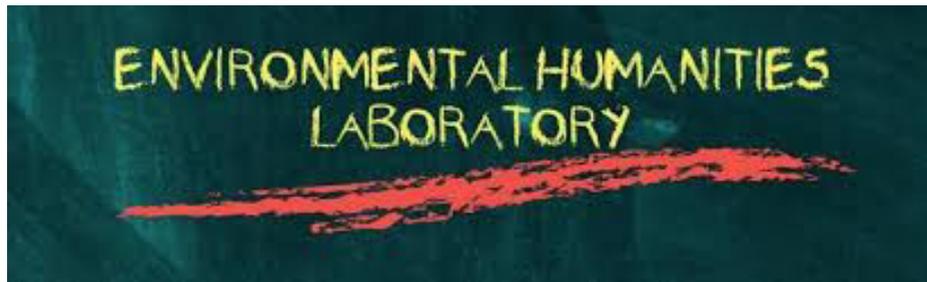
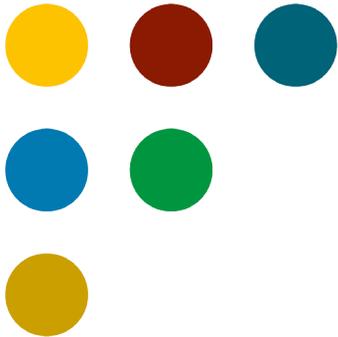
ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES
LABORATORY



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- FORMAS, Swedish government research council for sustainable development
- KTH Royal Institute of Technology (Stockholm, Sweden)
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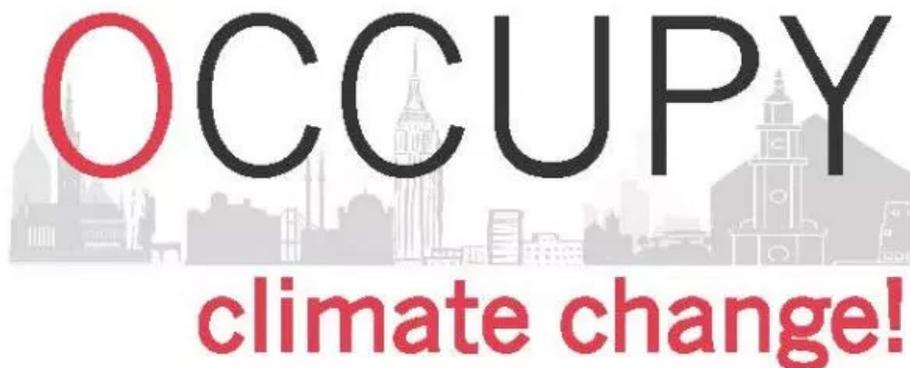
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OCC! – OCCUPY CLIMATE CHANGE!

OCC! researches two themes which are understudied in the literature on Climate Change (CC): the issue of Loss and Damage (L&D) and the impact of climate change on cities. In particular, OCC! addresses those themes focusing on the practices and experiments of grassroots organizations across different cases in order to identify how their diverse, dynamic, self-organized responses to loss try to undo or embrace the damage. OCC!'s team will delve into the practices of self-organization and solidarity experimented by grassroots groups in five cities: Malmö, Naples, Istanbul, New York, and Rio De Janeiro. For more information, please visit the [project's website](#).

Occupy Climate Change is funded by FORMAS (Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development) under the National Research Programme on Climate (Contract: 2017-01962_3).



INTRODUCTION

CITIES OF OTHER WORLDS – A CALL FOR IMAGINATIVE URBAN EXPLORATIONS

Floods, water shortages, increasingly frequent and prolonged heatwaves, gated communities and immense slums -- those are the features of the cities in the age of climate change. But other things are also occurring in the cities such as measures for the reduction of private traffic, the blooming of urban gardens, and the multiplication of grassroots environmentalist organizations. These are some of the ways in which climate change materializes in the urban context.

Thanks to the **Occupy Climate Change** project! (OCC!), funded by the Swedish agency FORMAS, a team of researchers is analyzing how associations, activists, and municipal governments are tackling climate change challenges from the bottom-up.

To understand how younger generations experience present climate change and imagine the future, OCC! launches an imaginative exploration of our cities in 200 years. How will our cities be in the year 2200? It may be a dystopian reality, a paradise or a hyper-technological hell, or maybe it will be dominated by the return of wild nature or a completely new ecosystem with living beings that we do not know yet...

Our call for imaginative urban explorations is open to all people, and especially to high school and university students. We invite to imagine how either one's own city or one of the five cities studied in the OCC! project (New York, Rio de Janeiro, Istanbul, Malmö, and Naples) will be in the year 2200.

Our project aims to create an atlas of future cities – Cities of Other Worlds –, which will offer an inventory of the urban fears, hopes, anxieties, and fantasies of young generations.

To participate, please send us:

(1) a short story (min. 1500 – max 5000 words), imagining either your city or one of the cities of the OCC! project (New York, Rio, Istanbul, Malmo, Naples) in the year 2200.

(2) a signed OCC! consent to publish form (it appears at the end of this booklet). You authorize us publish the short story in the OCC!'s *Atlas of the Other Worlds* (an online, open-access platform). Such a form includes a declaration attesting that the story is the result of the author's ingenuity and that it is unpublished.

All the materials must be sent by email to the following address ehlab@abe.kth.se no later than December 30, 2020.

As preparation for this imaginary exploration, *OCC!* team provides the following practical advice and helpful tips on how to boost imagination.

Readings:

The Road by Cormac McCarthy (2006) [novel]

The Drowned World by J. G. Ballard (1962) [novel]

New York 2140 by Kim Stanley Robinson (2017) [novel]

[Climate change in literature and literary studies: From cli-fi, climate change theater and ecopoetry to ecocriticism and climate change criticism, by Adeline Johns-Putra, WIREs Clim Change 2016, 7:266–282. doi: 10.1002/wcc.385 \[academic article\]](#)

[Fantastic Futures? Cli- fi , Climate Justice, and Queer Futurity, by Rebecca Evans, Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities , Vol. 4, No. 2–3 \[academic article\]](#)

['Cli-fi': literary genre rises to prominence in the shadow of climate change, by Stephanie LeMenager, The Conversation \[popular article\]](#)

Movies:

Escape from New York (1981)

Blade runner (1982)

Qatsi trilogy (1982–2002)

Fieldtrips:

To imagine the city as it may be in 2200, individuate the most vulnerable areas of your city and go visit them. Make photographs, sketches (if you can), and then come back and discuss with your peers about how things could become in two centuries.

Past for future:

Explore how the city you wish to write about was two hundred years ago. Consult old maps, recognize what changed and what stayed, ask yourself why. You can implement a small oral history project in order to understand what has changed in ones' own life.

For information: ehlab@abe.kth.se.



LISBON 2200

JESSICA VERHEIJ

She woke up with the siren going off. It didn't shock her; it had been raining non-stop for six days now and the city service had already issued warnings about downtown flooding. Apparently the wetlands outside the city, where surplus water is usually directed to, could no longer handle the continuously ongoing rain. Alex, her neighbor, had told her the other day about images made illegally by a drone of some activist movement, showing the camps of the people trying to make a living on those wetlands. She didn't get it: with so much land in the world, why would you choose to live there? Also she hadn't actually seen the images, and Alex was known for its sense of drama. The camps were probably not as big as it had said. Anyway, no time to think about this now, time to start moving.

She rushed down the stairs and got her emergency kit from the closet. Then she froze. How could she have been so stupid? Her outfit was downstairs, in the basement! They would not forgive her if she would show up at the meeting point without it; not to be prepared during an emergency evacuation could cost her a big part of her allowance. She would have to run down to the basement, gether stuff and make sure to make it to the meeting point on time. Outside in the hall she ran into Alex: "Alex, shit! My outfit is downstairs in the basement. Please PLEASE wait for me!". She noticed its immediate discomfort, but it didn't have the means to resist her pledge – being friends with a programmed being had its advantages. And so Alex waited in the hall while she rushed downstairs as fastas she could. She opened the door to the basement, ran to her deposit, switched on the light and... There was someone there. No doubt about it, she

On the left open access picture from: <https://pixabay.com/illustrations/crowd-men-women-cas-serole-2152653/>

could see a foot linked to a leg with jeans on, right behind the two boxes in the back. "Who's there?", her voice trembled. The foot disappeared behind the boxes. She waited 2 seconds, but then remembered that the clock was ticking. "Look, whoever you are and whatever you are doing there, we'll both be in trouble if we don't show up at the meeting point on time. So please don't hurt me, let me get my emergency outfit and I'll be out of here." She heard some moving behind the boxes and suddenly a face appeared: a human face, very white with brown eyes and brown hair. He looked terrified. She immediately felt pity for him, understanding that he was not there to harm her or to steal anything. "WHAT are you doing here? WHY are you here? Didn't you hear the siren?? You must be crazy. Come, we need to start moving!". Luckily she knew exactly where her outfit was, on the shelf in the leftcorner. She grabbed it and started to move away, expecting the visitor to follow her. But he did not. He remained right there, behind the boxes, not saying a word and still looking terrified.

At exactly the same moment, Alex came down the stairs. "Lina, WHAT are you doing? We NEED to go NOW!". She could clearly hear the panic in its voice. "The-there... there is someone here", and she pointed at the boxes. Alex looked at the boxes, noticed the face and within less than 3 seconds h concluded: "he doesn'tbe long here". "What do you mean, he doesn'tbe long here? Of course he doesn't belong here, this is my deposit, this is our basement. What do you mean!", replied Lina, almost desperate. "I mean that he is not a citizen of Lisbon and he has also not been registered as a visitor. He doesn't belong here. "At that very moment the man made a sudden move, the boxes fell down and he ran in their direction, trying to escape. "There is no point, you wouldn't be able to pass through the door without us, everything is being checked and monitored", Alex said. The figure stopped and turned around. Lina had never felt so much pity in her life: it was as if the man was about to have a mental break down. "Who are you?", Lina asked. "I... I am a... I am a marginal", those were his first words. At that moment Alex turned to Lina: "Remember the images I showed you the other day?". And finally Lina understood: this man was one of those living on the wetlands outside of the city, and for some reason he had been hiding down here in her basement. She had caught him. "We don't have time!", Alex was almost screaming. "But we can't just leave him here! What if the water comes? He will DIE!", Lina replied. One of the disadvantages of being friends with a programmed being: Alex wasn't very good at understanding her feelings. It looked at her, puzzled, confused and clearly frightened: "But we need to go to the meeting point. It's not up to us. It's not our business. We

need to go to the meeting point NOW!"

Alex's last words were interrupted by the sound of a second siren going off. The three looked at each other: they knew what this meant, it was the end. All citizens of downtown Lisbon were required to be present at the meeting point, fully equipped for an emergency, before the second siren would go off, fifteen minutes after the first one. Lina didn't exactly know what happened to the people that did not show up at the meeting point on time- but she knew the punishment would be hard. She looked at Alex: "What now?". "Let's go to your place, the three of us. Your apartment is on the fourth floor, it is not likely that the water will reach it. We stay there, and we think of what to do.... Of what to tell them..." Alex looked at the man: "Come with us, you'll probably die if you stay here". The man still looked frightened, but he realized he did not really have a choice - he followed themupstairs.

Once inside the apartment, Alex couldn't help it: "What on earth are you doing here? How did you end up in this basement? Didn't you know the water was coming?" Lina again felt pity for the man, seeing the look on his face: "What's your name?", she asked him. "My... my name is Milo", he said. "I got stuck. I couldn't help it. I was in the city mining the whole day, as I do almost every day, but I made a huge miscalculation. I..." Lina interrupted him: "What do you mean, mining?". Alex turned to her, clearly impatient - Lina knew it had a very hard time dealing with so many unpredicted events

- "Mining, I told you the other day. Do you ever listen to me? It's what marginals do to make their living, they go around the underground systems of the city to collect materials left behind by the waste collectors. Especially plastic is very valuable, and they can sell it to people outside the cities. It's how they make a living, basically".

Lina didn't know what to say: two minutes ago she felt this couldn't get any more confusing, and now it was. She didn'tget it; had Alex told her this? Had she really not listened? Why did Alex know all this? How? She was sure this type of information was not being distributed by the city service. Could Alex know things that it was not supposed to know? She turned to Milo: "So that's what you do? You go around the city to mine trash? And then you sell it?". "Yes, that's basically how I spend my days. We know the underground system better than the city service itself, and as long as we don'trunintoanyonethe-re'susuallynoproblem. Excepttoday..." "Sotherearemorepeoplelike you?", Lina asked. "Oh yes, right now we are around 150 people living outside the city walls, but there's people coming and going all the time."

Why had she never heard of this? Was this really happening? Did so many people have to collect trash to survive? Why could they not receive an allowance like her? Suddenly she became aware of how comfortable and secure her own life was. She had always thought this was normal, that everyone in the world lived like this... But as it seemed, at least 150 people outside of the city walls did not have an apartment, did not receive an allowance, and had to roam around the city whole days and collect plastic. Maybe they hadn't even received an education? "What about education, did you get any?", Lina asked. "We educate ourselves. We pass on our knowledge from generation to generation. Around 20 years ago, the last person that had lived before the Great Disasters of 2117 died. She had still witnessed a world where education was freely accessible, where people could find information about almost anything. She, and others with her, educated the new generation, and they educated us. "Lina didn't know what to say – what kind of world was this? "But why? Why do you choose this life? Why don't you want to live in the city, like us? It's... It's nice, it's comfortable."

Now it was Milo's turn to look confused. Alex intervened: "Lina, don't be ridiculous. It's not their choice. They're not allowed in. They're not one of us. "Milo opened his mouth, as if he was going to object Alex's words. Then he closed it again, waited for a few seconds and said: "We *are* one of you. I am exactly the same as Lina, except she is a female and I am a male. But our group is made of both females and males. Only humans though, the programmed beings haven't joined us. Yet. In other places they have, I know of a group living outside of Warsaw where some programmed beings were banished from the city. But we are the same, we are all humans. It's just that they don't want us. We don't fit. They believe we will be a threat to the city and to its structures once they let us in. They believe we will pollute the streets, go against orders, try to change things. They don't want us... *You* don't want us."

Suddenly Lina realized the danger she and Alex were in. This person, Milo, was standing in her apartment, and he was clearly not supposed to be there. Soon the drones would pass by to check for any movements inside the houses, and there was no way they could escape it. They would find them, in the company of a marginal. Lina looked at Alex, and she realized it knew it too. Lina started to despair – she had no idea how to turn this situation around. Once the government would find them, they would all be banished. She was sure of that. She didn't even know exactly what this meant, but she knew her life would never be the same again. And regarding Milo, she had no idea what happened to people that were in the city illegally, but she knew they wouldn't let him go. He would be sent to one of the prisons on the Azores, in the middle of

the Atlantic. She had seldom heard of these places, but... Why did she know so little about all these things? It felt like her whole life had been a lie. Why did no one ever inform her about this?

"I'll tell them I broke into your apartment. That I came in to rob you, that I kept you as a hostage and that I didn't let you go to the meeting point." Milo's voice was calm now, almost determined. "What? What do you mean? Why would you say that?" Lina looked at him amazed. "To save us. He's saying he will sacrifice himself once the drones find us" Alex said. It was as if Milo had read her thoughts. He said: "If they find you here with me, it will be the end for you. Not having showed up at the meeting point on time will be a minor problem compared to this. They will banish you. Both of you. It will not be pretty." "No, but what about you?? It will not be pretty for you either. What will they do to you?" Lina said. "They will find me anyway", Milo replied. They all were silent for a while – again Lina did not know what to say. She felt her life was being decided, right there and then, and at the same time she felt she still had no clue what was going on. "He's right" Alex said. "I have analyzed the situation based on the value of costs and benefits, and he's right. If we tell the truth, it's the end for all of us. We will be banished, and Milo's punishment will be worse than that. We will all lose our lives. If Milo sacrifices himself, only he will lose his life. Rationally speaking, his life is worth less than ours. He doesn't have as much to lose as we do. Hence it only makes sense that he is the one sacrificing himself. He'll be caught anyway, no matter what." Lina looked at Milo: his face seemed calm, but she could see a sense of panic in his eyes. She was sure Alex did not have the ability to register it, it was too subtle. But she saw it. And she understood what it meant for him. He had a life too. Different from theirs, maybe less comfortable, but still... A life. He had people around him, maybe even family. He would never see them again. They would never hear from him again. But she couldn't help to think that Alex was right. Milo will be caught, no matter what. And now there was a possibility of her life being saved, and Alex's. They would be able to keep on living. All this would not be more than an unfortunate episode. They would probably forget about it, never talk about it again.

That moment, they all heard the whizzing sound of a drone outside the window. They turned and saw it holding still in the air – it was tiny, but they knew it had registered them and that the city service was being informed instantly. Soon a group of guards would show up at the door. They would demand an explanation.



PARIS 2200

ALBANE BAUBY

Alice goes out from her home, still half asleep, to go to the hospital. She walks along the underground streets to take the metro. In fact, Paris is a below ground city that revolves around shops, homes and a free public transit network for residents. The earth surface is mostly reserved for green spaces like parks, forest and natural reserves. People used going up during their free time to enjoy fresh air and perform outside activities.

On this national day, June 15, 2200, streets are deserted. One hundred years ago, the third world war was ending. This one have lasted 50 years, dividing the world population by 3, from 9 billion to 3 billion. Since then, population growth has resumed but minds and societies have changed a lot.

After fifteen minutes of metro, she takes a big elevator to regain the surface of the earth, she is now close from the hospital. It's only 9 am but it is already over 35°C, a normal temperature for a month of June in Paris. Hospitals are among the last buildings to be on the surface of the earth. The only buildings that are commonly build on surface are named "flosbluidings".

This type of huge ecological buildings has a flower shape and stands several hundred meters above the ground. They can be divided in three parts that are assimilated as roots, stem and petals. Roots represent an extensive pipe system, sunk into the ground, which recover waste water from the city and bring it into the stem of the edifice. In this part, the water incurs a biological treatment, using different types of plants and micro-organisms, before being redistributed to the population by the roots again. Regarding petals, this part spreads over several kilometers and is used for agricultural purposes. In fact, greenhouses, field of culture, orchards are found there and feed the city.

On the left open access picture by Xaxa: <https://www.goodfon.com/wallpaper/apokalipsis-eyfe-leva-bashnya.html>

Furthermore, these ecological buildings have been designed to shelter a maximum of vegetation in order to capture most of the carbon dioxide released by human activities. That's why, from outside view, these buildings look like giant flowers. A dozen of these flosbuilding stand through the city because their development have revolutionized the management of Paris. Another development that has greatly improved its handling is the development of the underground city. Indeed, it allows the inhabitants to benefit from geothermal energy during winter and to protect themselves from the hot weather and dangerous rays of the sun during summer. At Alice's time, summer is particularly harsh because temperatures are unsustainable; most people stay underground and wait until autumn to do surface activities again. The only people living on the surface are farmers, pastoralists and some artistic and political figures. Life's rules on the surface are very strict because governments all around the world are working to preserve and protect the biodiversity left by years of war and environmental conflicts. Mistakes in environmental management of past generations have almost destroyed everything on earth and the new political priority is to create a city that works in harmony with the environment.

Alice stare at her little sister dozing on her hospital bed. She has lived there for more than one year now. Unfortunately, Emma has an extremely rare degenerative disease and needs important daily care. She has been diagnosed just after her twelfth birthday and since, her state does not stop to decrease despite several attempted treatments. Alice is well aware that Emma doesn't have more living time left, doctors have informed her, but she is her only family and she can't face the reality. She has done incalculable number of researches on this disease, she also has contacted many different doctors in order to find a cure. The main issue is that this disease is so rare that no treatment research have been undertaken in the world. However, this disease used to be cured very easily a hundred years before. During her researches on the subject and her various meetings with doctors, Alice has met someone who has talked to her about a yellow flower containing a molecule healing the disease. This plant used to growth in the Amazonian forest but disappeared before the third world war due to deforestation and climate change. This is not the only living creature which disappeared during this time, almost half of the biodiversity has died out. Causes were various: pollution, ocean acidification, overexploitation... Human from years 2000 have destroyed most of the ecosystems. That's one of the main reasons that pushed the world in a war particularly violent in 2050. Alice is completely desperate after this visit. Before falling asleep, she looks at a sketch of the little yellow flower, the only cure for her sister, this only

cure that is not on earth anymore. This night, her sleep is particularly restless. Her dreams are a mix between various memories with her sister when they were children. Then, she sees herself in the Amazonian forest, looking for the flower, but whenever she find one and pick it, the flower instantly disappears in her hand.

Alice wakes up with a start, completely disoriented. Her head is spinning and her heart is beating really hard. She attempts to take a breath but her dream is still impregnated in her head and she doesn't realized that she is not in her home anymore. She is in a bed, wrapped in white sheets, all the walls around her are white. Gradually, she understands that she is in hospital, but this one looks very archaic according to her. Devices next to her bed seem to come from another time; she has never seen such weird apparatus. Suddenly, a nurse appears and comes in the room, her nurse's coat is extremely dated and she says to Alice:

- You are finally awake! How do you feel?

- What am I doing here?

- Don't you remember anything? This is not surprising, you must suffer from a slight amnesia but the memory should return little by little. Do you remember who you are?

- Yes I remember very well, I just do not understand what I'm doing here.

- A man found you on the ground in a street two days ago, he first thought that you had been assaulted and then, when he wanted to help you, he realized that you were delirious and that you were burning with fever. That's why he contacted the emergency. We were forced to administer you powerful tranquilizers to calm you down.

- I am sorry but I'll have to leave, I have to go to work, I have to go see my sister ...

- No, I'm sorry but you cannot leave for now, I am waiting the results of your last exams, you could call your sister later in the day if you want.

- No, I feel good, I don't understand, I fell asleep at home and I woke up here, all of this have no sense. Can I know in which hospital are we?

- You are at Saint Antoine Hospital in Paris. Don't worry, as I told you, you must have a little amnesia.

Alice has never heard of this hospital before while she knows all hospitals in the city. Then she starts to understand that something crazy has happened. While the nurse was leaving the room, Alice asked her:

- Excuse me madam, what day is it?

- We are 18 June.

- Which year?

The nurse looked at her with a strange look and finally answer: 2020.

While she is leaving the hospital, Alice is completely disoriented and lost, she doesn't recognize Paris at all. She walks along a street, her eyes wide opened, marveling. She still doesn't realize what is going on under her sight. An open pit city with various kinds of buildings appears in front of her. Everything is gray and tarred. There are many people outside, hurrying and speaking loudly, so many back and forth in all directions. Cars circulate on roads and honk. She has never seen a running car before this day. As a matter of fact, in her world, cars have been banned in downtown since a long time ago and, gradually, their use has declined until completely disappear. People no longer see the value of them with a very developed and free transport network at their disposal. Moreover, in her time, no one have to move to go shopping or work. Most people work from home and go to their workplace through holograms.

Progressively she began to feel eyes on her. Indeed, people were turning around on her path and staring at her. She started to understand that her look were arousing curiosity. She wears a close-fitting black suit, made from recycled fabric, protecting from the sun's rays. If at her time this outfit is the most innocuous, it's obvious that in 2020 people have never seen such getup. Then, she noticed that Paris's streets are particularly dirty, but people around her do not seem to pay attention. The Parisians of 2200 don't have the same behavior as those of 2020.

In fact, where she comes from, people are very respectful of nature and the environment. From an early age, children are sensitized by the preservation of the city which had to be completely rebuilt at the end of the war. ed by the war. Moreover, she ise delivered by drone but ed heart because she knows that in a few years this city is going to be.

Everyone recycle their waste and the vast majority of them are biodegradables. In addition, every citizen is involved in the management of the city because everyone must give some of their free time to take care of parks, forests, vegetable gardens and clean the underground streets. This law has made possible, for every individual, to feel worry and find a place in this urban metabolism.

Suddenly, Alice came to her senses and realized that the odds are in her favor. In fact, her travel through the time is a chance to save her sister because in 2020 the Amazonian forest and the healing flower are still on earth. That's why, she starts to have hope again but she knows that she had no time to loose. She has to get the plant and, then, find a way to return at her time.

Almost two months have passed since Alice have had feel extremely bad that

she couldn't have the change to warn her sister about her travel through time. fallen through time, but, the day for her journey for the Amazonian forest has finally arrived. She handled to gather enough money to take a plane for Brazil and she is looking forward to find the healing flower very soon. It was hard for her to find a place to sleep without money and with her unusual outfit, but finally she has managed to adapt herself to this new world and has found a job. Indeed, a rich old lady, who could no longer take care of her house and was seeking a little company, has crossed Alice's pathway and has decided to hire her as a housekeeper in exchange for a roof and a small salary. She wasn't used to pay for food because in her city basic food such as vegetables, fruits, cereals and especially water, are considered as common goods that belong to all the residents of the city and so they are free. The redistribution is managed by local administration, and the amount given is calculated specifically for each family. Obviously if people want more or various type of aliments they can buy it on internet and be delivered by drone but no one is starving. However, Alice knows that her world isn't perfect. The worst things are the environmental laws which are extremely strict. The surface of the earth, sheltering green spaces, is constantly monitored by guards and drones and those who break the established rules take a big risk. Degrade the environment is considered as a worse act than murder. In fact, anyone who is caught breaking a law is directly imprisoned and judged. Minors get years of imprisonment and hard labor, but adults are stripped of their citizenship and banished from the city. This is what have happened to her parents, and since, Alice lives alone with her sister. She has no idea what they may have become, but she assumes they are dead. That's what everyone say, because surviving outside the city is impossible. The truth is that no one but the government knows what is beyond the borders. In fact, nobody has the right to cross them. It's said that behind borders there is nothing, the nuclear weapons of past wars having devastated three quarters of the planet, no more vegetation can grow. Only about twenty cities across the world, like Paris, have managed to recreate a livable and peaceful environment. When the plane takes off, Alice admires the view of the old Paris with a twinge in the heart because she knows that in a few years this city is going to be completely destroyed by the war. Moreover, she still doesn't know how to come back to her time and she is worried about her sister. She has no idea if her condition has become worse and feels extremely bad that she couldn't have a chance to warn her about her travel through time. But now, her only goal, is to save Emma's life, and for that she'll do anything.

Reflexive part

First of all, the main difference between both cities is the presence of nature. In 2200, Paris is a green city, nature is present everywhere on the earth's surface. The main point is what I have called « flosbuilding » because it's a human built, providing water and food for the inhabitant, but nevertheless, it's completely covered with vegetation and has crops fields installed on the roofs. That's why this building makes intermesh between the human and non-human world and that reminds with the *transcoporality* concept which supports the idea that the substance of the human is ultimately inseparable from the non-human environment. This building serves inhabitants' needs, through food production and the cleaning of water, and it hosts abundant vegetation. There is no division between nature and society. In addition, this vegetation allows people to have a better quality of air and to absorb some of the carbon dioxide produced by human activities.

Secondly, there are parks, forest, natural reserves scattered everywhere on the city's surface, and people, who live underground, just have to take lifts and get on to benefit from these natural spaces. They can easily switch as much as they want between city and nature because both are linked. All these natural spaces are controlled and monitored by the government which wants everything in a particular way and both nature and human must comply with established laws. Humans are implicated in the creation of many ecosystems and that it's part of the *conservation and control thesis*. Indeed, the new Paris has a « hegemonic governmentality » which means that the control of resources and landscapes does not belong to producers' groups but to the centralized power of the government in order to preserve sustainability. The government wants to create « wilderness » spaces with faunal diversity and controlled access. That's why the whole city is monitored side-by-side by guard and drone lift and let from the environment by guards and drones to keep everything in order. Besides, a wide range of laws have been established and everyone has to follow them, otherwise, they take the risk to be banished.

Otherwise, there are strict boundaries in the city. Paris stops at a specific moment and there is a net delimitation between the city and the rest of the world. More than that, there is an important contrast between the luxuriant vegetation of the rebuilt city and the rest of the world where nothing can grow. This fact reminds with the concept of « territorialization » of conservation space. In the course we have seen that bounded spaces poorly match with the ecosystem functions and flows of diverse natural elements, but, in this city, the government uses it to scare people and remind them what can happen if they degrade the environment. In this sense, government forces people to

stay into the city and to obey rules.

Then, the heart of the city is underground for energetic and health reasons. Because of global warming, temperature during summer can easily reach 50°C and it has been no longer possible to live under sun's rays. That's why the main of the city has been rebuilt underground. This allows people to be protected from heat. Furthermore, this city implanted in the ground allows to have access to geothermic energy which is a way to get a warm city during winter. This underground city hosts all of the houses, shops, corporate headquarters, streets and a public transport. The last one is very well developed and allows everyone to move from a city's side to another easily and for free. This is why this city has no longer cars.

Another point is that people's behavior has completely changed in 200 years. People are educated in an environmental preservation spirit and everyone has to give some of their free time to take care of the city. For example, take care of common vegetable garden or park. Thus, the city and the nature become values in their own right for citizens and that's why they start to protect them. This way of thinking is named *Environmentality*, which corresponds to a decentralization of authority with the promulgation of local responsibilities, leading to a system of self-governance.

Citizens become « environmental subjects », that means that there is a transformation of people's attitudes about the city and themselves. This allows the government to make people think and act like they want about the environment. Finally, raw food and water are free because they are considered as *common properties*. This theory rests on the understanding that resources, like water and food, are traditionally managed as collective supplies. Food is produced inside buildings thanks to robots who work in fields and these non-transformed aliments are then distributed to all families, according to their needs, in order to avoid starvation. This distribution is handled by the centralized power of the government which provides rules of use to maintain subsistence and renewal.

To sum up, the city of Paris working in 2200 is linked to various concepts and theories belonging to Political Ecology courses. Firstly, there is the concept of *transcoporality*, with the idea that human and non-human are intermeshed. Secondly, the creation of a wilderness world inside the city by the government reminds to the conservation and control thesis. Then, the strict boundaries of the city are connected to the concept of « territorialization » and space conservation. Another concept is « environmentality » and the creation of environmental subjects with the education of the citizens to take care of the environment. Finally, the last one is the common properties with the free distribution of water and food to the citizens because they are considered as collective resources.



THE CITY OF STOCKHOLM 2200

SARA MATTSSON

Stockholm the year of 2200 is a city that has been affected by climate change in various ways. The rise of the sea level has changed the composition of the islands that make up the inner city while also creating new islands in the outskirts of town. Climate change has also steered the city's agenda incorporating a sustainability framework in order for the city to survive. For Stockholm, sustainability is the key word in framing the activities that make up the city. For the sustainability project, the city has accomplished much and the city seem to have steered it's society towards a more sustainable one.

The technocratic rule

Stockholm in 2200 is governed by a technocratic rule and this rule has been stable for a couple of 100 years now. This transition away from democratic rule was an outcome of the discussion on how to obtain sustainability in the aftermaths of the IPCC-report that came out a couple of almost 200 years ago (in 2018) that stated that we had the technology to stay within the limits of 1.5 degrees but we were missing the actions that needed to be taken. An immense people movement was created. Because the mainstream discussion on sustainability within this movement was not about a critique of the system, but rather how we could change the current system- the goal of having a technocratic rule became one of their main targets. Because the discussions about sustainability was seen as something that was hindered by the individual, the incentive of having a democratic rule was dismissed whereas the only way to attain sustainability was deemed achievable with a technocratic rule.

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City infrastructure- the walkable city

In this future, the average Stockholmer work less and have more free time to do other things. Such as engaging in voluntary work or in enhancing a specific skill. These are also traits that are desired in this society. In this future, digitalization is immensely integrated in almost all parts of the city and every citizen action is measured and quantified in order to keep track of the city's ecological footprint. Furthermore, technology (both low-tech and high-tech) is heavily ingrained in these Stockholmers way of life in various ways.

As an adaption measure to the new way of life that the city has developed, all the islands has been transformed into ABC (work, living and center)-areas in order to create a more local way of life. This is a measure that is seen as enhancing the sustainable urban life where all activities that make up an urban life in the 2200's are within walking distance. This means that all the island comprises of both places to work, live and also to spend it's leisure time in. This has made the islands more isolated from each other. Since it is considered sustainable to live small and also because the buildable land is fully exploited, no measure has been taken to mitigate the ever increasing high housing rent. People who can't afford housing on land, lives in boathouses between the islands.

The islands comprise of areas where a range of activities compete with each other on the horizontal level. Huge skyscrapers where both farm land and people takes up space are in competition with the sun meaning that the city is built horizontally rather than on the vertical axel, creating a very dense city structure. Thanks to the range of activities, the islands covers its own subsistence needs in food, water and energy supply. The city has control over these urban commons. The management of food, water and energy supply is therefore controlled and distributed by the city. A range of different innovations has been applied in order to create a functioning city and the city relies much on technological innovations for solving urban environmental problems. Because many of the urban environmental problems was believed to be caused on the individual level, policy measures was aimed at changing the individual behavior. In the year of 2200, this has been considered successful. In addition, the food systems consist of community greenhouses that is managed by the islander themselves. Because people work less, they have time engaging in this type of informal economy and contribute to the food system. In other words, citizens of the islands work in these for free in order to get their own food. Lastly,

the food security is a measure that the city is taking seriously and the reason for this food production system is to obtain self-sufficiency in every island. The water cycle is taken care of in a closed loop system and the islands are self-sufficient in creating energy-supply that meets the needs of each island, and this is also done in a closed loop system.

Metabolism

The metabolic profile of the city consists of a closed loop system where the input is created in the city (such as energy and food) and something that doesn't transcend the system border of the city. The output (such as waste) is also dealt with inside of the system border. Urban commons such as waste is heavily urban mined into this system. The closed loop system was implemented and is considered a huge success of the city where the technocratic rule was considered the factor behind the achievement. The boathouse people are the only ones who doesn't live in the closed loop system and are considered as outcasts and deemed to not live as sustainable as the other citizens of Stockholm. More or less, they are the blame for the environmental degradation that still occur.

Segregation

The boathouse people don't have the same access to power as the islanders in Stockholm which can be seen in the low representation of them in the government. Due to the place they live, they have less access to urban commons such as clean water, food and reliable energy because they stand outside the closed loop system. Their main intake of food consist of fish since this is still a common pool resource that the islanders haven't changed the property rights of. Consequently, the islander's don't eat the fish caught on urban waters because of the high levels of metals found in the fish. There are disparities between the island-citizen and the boathouse-citizen regarding which opportunities in life they have, therefore the Stockholmer living in in 22000 is still living in a class-society. The boathouse people are almost never on land if they don't have specific business on land such as doctor's appointment etc., so they almost never leave their boat-communities. Sometimes the boathouse people organize protests by occupying a specific shore on one of the islands.

The story of a museum

In Stockholm 2200, Skansen has been replaced with a new open air museum that

exhibits a more appropriate focus on the way of life in the beginning of the 2000's. Because the way of life in Sweden has changed so much, the history portrayed in the old Skansen wasn't deemed relevant any more. How industrialization and urbanization changed the society in the 20th century isn't something that is highly valued in the collective memory since climate change is seen as the most pivotal process that has changed the society of the 2200's. As a consequence when the old Skansen had to close down because of insufficient funds, nothing was done to eradicate this event. Some years later after the closing down of Skansen, the city took upon themselves to open a new type of open air museum that would focus on the way of life of swedes in the 2000's. Furthermore, the overall aim of the exhibition is to show how people lived unsustainably. The weight in the exhibition is towards showing the unsustainable practices on the individual level while also acknowledging the stakeholders (certain institutions) that stood behind the success story of today's more sustainable society. One of the focus areas is also how mitigating climate change was the main target for a transformation to the current society.



STOCKHOLM IN THE YEAR OF 2200

A VISIONING OF A SUSTAINABLE AND PREFERABLE FUTURE

HANNA ERIKSSON

The year is 2200 in Stockholm. The city has become a megacity with 10 millions inhabitants. When looking back 80 years in time you can see that the city has gone through a major transformation in terms of policy-making, the matter-energy flow of the city, the infrastructure and the view and practices between human and "more-than-human" objects.

In the year 2200, the city of Stockholm bears the stamp of sustainability, inclusion, justice, diversity, novel complementary policy-making, interconnection between human and none-human and frugality with natural materials.

Diversity and equality

The spatial structure of Stockholm has transformed over a long period of time. The previous issue the city had with providing affordable housing is long gone. The term homeless is seen as something alien and every human have the right to a roof over their head. The urban centre and the suburban areas are interlinked. The centre of Stockholm consists of skyscraper while the suburbs is mixed with high apartment buildings and detached houses, but beside this the areas are fairly similar. People who want a calmer area to live in have search themselves to areas further from the city while people who want to feel the city pulse live more central. The socioeconomic factor does not determine the spatial life of people. The urban city is a mix of different kind of owning - both rented apartments and private housings. The suburb as well, with the opportunity to rent detached housing also. People with different socioeconomic background have the same opportunities to live in the urban centre and the

On the left open access picture by Markus Spiske from: <https://unsplash.com/photos/E7p-54JSQXY0>

suburbs. This changing has resolved in a more divers city and the previous segregation with division of areas of urban poor and rich have diminished. The housing market in Stockholm is built upon the public good and is decoupled from the market of neoclassical economic. The government in Sweden invest a lot of subventions to make this possible.

The structure of the city has subsequently resulted in decreasing division between different areas in Stockholm. The city is more integrated and the type of services provided, the infrastructure and activities of both small and bigger scales are mixed and not specific to one type of area. These urban mixes let people from different background meet, communicate and live together. A vibrant community and a diverse opportunity for different uses and activities define all places in Stockholm.

Infrastructure and urban planning

The design and decision-making processes of planning in Stockholm have a core in involving the local people and integrating the social and ecological aspects in the planning process. Moreover, the spatial allocation of public resources is done after the premises of equality and justice. The spatial distribution of resources is decoupled from wealth and every citizen has the same accessibility to public space and services. Stockholm has a wide spread of urban forests and green areas that people can use in all areas around and within the city. Furthermore, the planning is made so that people feel inclusive and can put their own character in the public space. In Stockholm, there are "free squares" where people have the right to do this and express themselves.

The urban planning and policy-making process of Stockholm has transformed and adapted to climate change and the subsequently cosmopolitical actions. The city has built a framework that connects the complex system that intertwines the different knowledge, values and practices of the urban life connected to climate change and sustainability. Moreover, it uses a bottom-up perspective to reach out to different voices and understandings. Among other things, this is done with an app where different people and groups can share their values and experiences concerning the human and none-human knowledge and practices. These stories are then connected in a wide network to be used in the policy-making of Stockholm. The policy makers emphasize on the practices and developments that are aiming for the greater good and sees the "more-than-human" perspectives. Moreover, they see that the transformation of the urban space not only lies in the understanding and development of the economic and technology but also the socio-political aspect.

Moreover, the city of Stockholm has incorporated the post-normal science approach when dealing with issues related to complex systems of nature when the stakes are high and the there are existing system uncertainties. In practical sense, this means that when there are lack of certain facts and knowledge the environmental policy aims at including and focusing on human values and the quality of the urban space. Different fields of actors have mutual contact, present their inputs and an agreement is done after premises of the locals' values concerning the issue.

Furthermore, Stockholm has a wide range of common pool resources in the year 2200. There are urban forests and farming around the city and lakes where people can fish. These properties are managed as collective or common property by the locals constructed in different types of local managements.

The metabolism of the city

The city of Stockholm is seen as a system that includes an awareness of the inputs and outputs of the system. Furthermore, Stockholm has an environmental policy to decrease the flow in the system (the use of matter-energy) and also to phase out the output of the system. This policy has helped the city to turn the linear flow of matter-energy into a more circular and careful use of resources. The waste of the city is reused in different ways. Among other things, waste from waterplants is used to fertilize the urban and rural agriculture areas within and around Stockholm and all organic waste is used to obtain biogas to provide the city with energy. Besides the aspect of circular flow, there are more of local activities and production within the system of the city. The local market is flourishing and the matter-energy from outside of Stockholm, and especially outside of Sweden has diminished. This was a consequence after the market value of goods and services started to include the externalities, which raises the prices and more local production was thought as a better option. Furthermore, this has resulted in decreased degradation in the countries where Sweden, and Stockholm, previously has imported goods and services.

To obtain a circular flow of metabolism the government of Stockholm has implemented urban mining in the city. The city has taken initiatives, for example by collect electronics and the metal-storage that exist in the city and reuse or recycling these. The urban waste is contextualise and the old cables and pipes are reused.

The nature and the city are interlinked. The natural processes and natural material are a part of the city structure. Many houses are made of tree-material and have green roofs for example. In this sense, the planning of the city uses the "goods" from the nature to obtain a sustainable city where people want to live in. The "goods" and the "bads" are distributed equity among the citizens and the spatial places of Stockholm. This means that environmental "bads", such as waste and pollution, is not centred on a specific area. This resolves in that people have the same opportunities to access environmental "goods" and no group of people are more exposed to environmental "bads" than other.

Reflection

The visioning is made from a utopian and sustainable viewpoint of Stockholm in 2200 since this seems to be lacking today. Many stories concerning the future is generally rather dismal and visioning a preferable future could help to obtain prosperity and strength to make a difference. So the visioning is not based on a realistic standpoint for the future. The theoretical part of the visioning is obtained from several theories and concepts within the field of political ecology and the selection is made after those who seemed relevant and supporting in the transition to a sustainable urban environment in Stockholm.

The subject of diversity and equality is derived from the concept of environmental justice (Robbins 2012, p.74). Diversity and equality is a fundamental part of a sustainable city and need to be taken into consideration. Moreover, I think this is especially relevant for Stockholm where the segregation in terms of an economic and ethnical aspect is evident. The field of environmental justice contribute with the aspect of distribution of environmental "goods" and "bads" in the city and underpin a spatial urban environment where there is no difference between areas in this sense. The housing policies in Stockholm are a base to counteract the segregation and homogenised form of different zones in the urban space. By focusing on the "common good" instead of handling the housing situation as a part of the capitalistic market, changes can be made. The mixer of different owning types resolve in possibilities for everyone to find their suitable housing without being considerably limited by your socioeconomic situation. This topic also links to the concept of urban environmental justice and the distribution of "goods" and "bads" (Robbins 2012, p.74).

The infrastructure and urban planning section is based and inspired by the concepts of urban imaginary (Dikeç & Swyngedouw 2017), cosmopolitics (Houston et al. 2016) and post-normal science (mentioned in a seminar). The vision in this part is built upon inclusion of perspectives outside the established institutions

and policy processes. The concept of urban imaginary brings with it an aspect of focusing on how citizens see the urban space and re-thinking what the urban reality is. By creating "free squares" around Stockholm it gives opportunities for people to do this. Furthermore, the insights from cosmopolitics were the base for the idea of mapping different values, knowledge and practices around Stockholm. It is important to include these ideas to see how people think and act concerning the climate change and the sustainable transformation of the city. Stockholm can better adapt to peoples behaviours with this information. Lastly, the concept of post-normal science was applied to the policies surrounding decision-making in Stockholm. I think this concept is relevant when it comes to environmental policies, where the decisions often include uncertainties and high risks and you need to take in other perspectives and information. This is also a way to include values and beliefs of the urban citizens who are going to be affected by the result of the decision.

The last part of the visioning is focused on the flow of matter-energy and a transformed view of the human-nature relationship. This view does not separate the human space with the nature, it interlinks them and people have an overall understanding of that the urban space is interconnected with the nature. The circular flow is a way to counteract the overexploitation of natural material and to sustain a society less focused on consumption. The concept of urban metabolism (Robbins 2012, p.73) was the fundament of these ideas. This concept inspired me to see the urban environment as a creation of natural material that is processed and transformed to build the city. The material is used in different ways and the use in this visioning was aimed at acknowledge this and connect these material to the urban planning in a sustainable way. For a sustainable transformation of Stockholm, I think it is important to have the kind of mind-set of urban metabolism – to see the flow of natural material in an urban system and understand that the urban space is depended on natural materials and processes. Moreover, urban mining felt like a contributing tool in this transformation to a circular flow.

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FIRST DAIRY ENTRY OF MY LIFE

JAYANTH VENKATACHALA

30th October 2200

Well, this is my first ever diary entry of mylife. I've lived for 205 years now, although the last 105 years have been in silica form. They installed me into a new robot, sophisticated like a human. I am still getting used to it. For some reason I finally decided to do this and in the old- fashioned way of typing on a laptop. I don't think these people even know what a laptop is. I found yesterday in the carton with all my other human memories. It feels weird to feel like a human again after being in a mechanical robot for over a century. It still amazes me that I'm alive, thanks to science. I had lost my complete touch with typing, but the soft ware allowed me to improve my proficiency. It feels like cheating, but hell, works for me. I feel lucky and grateful to be one of the few who still gets to live this way. I didn't buy this, they put me in it as an honour for the work I did for the environment. I can't thank them enough. I'd like to start by writing about these past years as a summary in a few pages. This doesn't do it justice, but this is the first entry, so I'll keep the details to another day. Let me today talk about this amazing town, Mysore. This is where I grew up as a kid and did most of my work. They like me here I think, and I owe everything to this city.

The city of Mysore, also now famously known as the "model city" wasn't the same about 200 years ago in 2018. We didn't have these transportation pods, hyperloop and trees everywhere. It was simple, people now won't even be able to imagine what it even looked like. We had tar roads, petrol and diesel cars, two-wheeled bikes, trains that ran on diesel that took days to go to the capital,

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there was air and water pollution, there was traffic jams and people died in vehicular accidents, and that was normal. Life moved at a much faster pace. Adults were busy with their jobs. Student shad homeworks (yeah, they had to study at home too). Kids from this age, must hold candles to those kids from the past. We had cash for money which we used to keep in wallets and purses. Each country had its own currency. The world and the city have changed significantly now. To appreciate the current state of this city, I must explain how the city looked way back then. I'll talk about what my role was in changing the city to as it is now, in this entry.

Mysore, was exactly where it is now, well the tectonic plates don't move that fast. The weather was relatively good compared to other cities, considering that global warming had started to show its effects. It was one of the cleanest cities in India. It was known for the Royal palace that has now survived the time. It stands out now more than ever compared to these modern buildings with glass windows with solar panels. The Chamundi hill had a temple on top, which thousands of people visited every day. Hardly anybody goes there, now that religion has lost its prominence to science, ever since the multiverse theory was proven. The hill was losing its flora and fauna to deforestation. The forest ecology was under threat. There even used to be forest fires on the slopes. The two lakes, Kukkarahalli lake and Karangi lake were the home for migratory birds every year. But their numbers were declining every year. People also used to jog along the perimeter of these lakes. There were environmental activism going on around these two issues for decades, but nothing was done about it. The city was well planned for that day and age. The economic hub was in the centre with the academic areas, residential areas and finally the outskirts surrounded it in that order.

The city had much less people as it did not have as many industries, like in Bangalore which was then the Economic centre of the state. But now we are it. Ever since we started cleaning up our act in Mysore with regards to sustainability, it attracted the attention of the multi-national companies to shift their country head-quarters to here. Bangalore became too crowded and polluted. Locals even migrated to Mysore, bringing their knowledge and expertise. I saw both positives and negatives in this shift in the early years. The city was bound for a rapid "environmental" change. With us not being able to meet the 1.5 degree celsius mark, thanks to all the sceptics and so called "leaders" who did not understand how science worked, the problem of coping with the changes in Mysore compounded. There was chaos in the beginning. People needed direction and guidance to move forward. This is when I came back to Mysore, quitting a

well-paying job in Sweden, which was all peaceful and living life at its own pace. I was a product designer back then, who had immense interest in the impact of climate change in the future. Most of the work I did, was to design products to attain sustainable development. People knew me for that in Mysore and respected me as their local hero, even though I wasn't even there. As I kept a close eye on the situation back home, I decided that the city needed me more than I need that job I had, so I decided to come back home. It looked, bad. The city was not the same anymore. The kind and peaceful citizens of the city were agitated due to all the changes happening around them all of a sudden. One can understand that. This is when I saw the need for guidance to the people of Mysore, and to most major cities undergoing the same situation.

I started a podcast in English, which now most people understood in India, talking to experts from around the world almost every day about the possible solutions. By now, the academics had projected what would come ahead of us and how to resolve the situation. My aim was to disseminate the information objectively to the masses. The major news channels in India were busy covering the petty antics of politics in India and they didn't do a good job with that either. Number of podcast listeners grew rapidly, and by the end of few months at least one person from every family listened to it. The first thing I made sure with the podcast was that I pressed the need for cooperation among people of all kinds of background and differences. This was the toughest job as the previous governments had made sure to play identity politics, creating a wide gap and hatred among various sects of people. I stressed every day on the need for cooperation and that it was the only way going forward to live peacefully. It took time, but people realised it. The random floods, and landslides as a result, in the neighbouring districts in the Western Ghats took its toll killing thousands of people over years, but this brought people to get her. People shared their resources with the affected, knowing someday there will be others who would have their backs. Also, the long-lasting, inter-state conflict over the outlet of river Cauvery into Tamil Nadu was resolved due to heavy rains. Now Karnataka had excess to even store it in dams. So, those two goods came out directly from this grave situation. I brought in experts, activists, environmentalists, geographers and scientists from India and abroad, who had predicted these flooding decades ago. They systematically laid down the story of how corruption and political agendas suppressed the necessary actions to prevent the future catastrophe.

People realised their lives were disregarded by the system and their elected representatives. They had lost hope in their leadership. What could one expect

from the uneducated leaders who each had folders full of criminal records. It was all money and fame they wanted. Now more than ever, the facts hit people hard and they took the ownership of the mistake of electing them. After all India was and is still a democratic nation. This is when the great "Party of the Future" then, now known as "People's Party" was assembled in the state of Karnataka. I was invited to join the party. I had my reservations in the beginning but having seen that it was comprised of just experts and highly knowledgeable people who knew what they were doing in their field, I decided to join it. We first laid out an objective system of self-regulation within the party to keep in check the personal goals of its members. Everybody in the party was motivated to do the right thing collectively no matter what, for the first time in the history of the world. Our main aim was to create a sustainable future in every which way. We didn't play identity politics but rather stressed on the action plan on how we would solve the current distress. People finally had hope. In the elections we cleanly swept all the other old parties winning by 98% majority. That was some election. It showed people cared about their future and were ready to do what ever it took to fix the current problems. I was made the minister of the Environmental Protection and I was honoured and was ready to take authority over the situation. The first thing I did, was assembled a board of members which included senior environmentalists, activists, academics, graduate and post graduate students from various engineering fields, scientists, people's representatives, state environmental historians and political ecologists to discuss and take decisions collectively based on science and objective data. I hired an objective mass media house who shared our principles to cover each decision and meeting we had about the environmental issues so that public was up-to-date with what was going on. We maintained transparency with the public as they had trusted their future in our hands. Two cities in particular had most of our attention. Bangalore and Mysore as they were changing rapidly. Like I mentioned earlier Bangalore was losing its charm and Mysore was gaining all of it. Both had their environmental issues and I'll talk about Bangalore another time, but for now I'll stick with Mysore. I laid down the two major environmental issues with the city earlier.

I deployed local students and academics, committed to our cause to study each issue in depth. They conducted deep studies about the issues by studying historical records, talking to people around the hills and people who exercised and lived near the lake who had observed the changes in the lake's ecosystem. The activists readily jumped into help with the information they knew. The problem turned out to be a corrupt system which was lethargic to take actions.

In case of the hill, the older parties took bribes to ignore the encroachment of the hill slopes by local timber companies. The forest fires were not due to natural causes, but due to uncontrolled burning of the left-over trunks by them to create easy paths to encroach more forest. The lakes saw the decline in migratory birds due to eutrophication of the lakes. The sewage water from nearby localities were disposed into the lakes. The lack of food for these birds made them to go elsewhere. The lakes also did not have constant inlet of freshwater. These issues were easy to solve with our committed and aspiring youth, who were the majority of the population then, whose human resource was wasted due to high rates of unemployment. They got a job now, so we took care of that aspect of sustainability. We banned the timber companies near the hills, as a matter of fact, we banned illegal deforestation for good. Locals who observed illegal activities readily informed us pro bono, about those nefarious activities out of their new-found respect for their environment. Some even tried to catch loggers and sometimes successfully did, before our team even showed up, putting themselves at risk. We reforested large areas of the hill, the city and the Western Ghats with the help of locals and school students. The Western Ghats (not part of the city) recovered over time and floodswere mitigated. For the kids it was a game to see who planted more trees. For the future of Mysore and the state of Karnataka, it was new hopes. I tried to involve locals in every possible step for it was a matter of their own future. The lakes were cleaned over a couple of years. The sewage water was re-routed to the new sewage treatment plants around the city. We used the then available technology to produce biogas from the sewage and biodegradable wastes to be used for cooking and powering vehicles. We planned a network of underground canals to collect and feed rainwater from around the city to the lakes to replenishit with freshwater. The excess water from the lake was sent to the nearest agricultural areas around the city. Thus, a constant flow of fresh water was maintained.

The migratory birds slowly started reappearing. Waste treatment plants were setup outside the city to recycle the non-biodegradable wastes. We already had good wastecollection system, hence was named among the cleanest cities back then, but the treatment plants needed attention and improvement, which we did. People helped the cause by doing their basic duty of separating thrash and using recycled products and avoiding food wastes in many ways, enthusiastically. Our party grew in the national level rapidly. They stem worked very well, and we were elected into power in the centre. They recognised my achievements in resolving environmental issues in the city of Mysore and in the

state and appointed me as the Central Minister of Environmental Protection. I gladly accepted the new challenge and did my best. You can see the results of that now I guess. That story is for another day. Mysore drew attention from all around the world. The people's enthusiasm and dedication to take care of their local environment inspired people around the world.

The environmentalism and the new cosmopolitanism instilled in the people of the city through mainly the two issues above, sustained, resulting in the shift of the centre of economic to Mysore from Bangalore in just two decades. People felt rewarded for their good deeds. The growth felt natural and people adjusted to it smoothly now that they knew how to. The new migrants adopted our way of living and everybody lived happily here. The city still is growing, and I am happy that I played a small part in this process, after all it was the will and action of the people that was paramount in this development. I'll end it here for today, it's almost time for the cricket world cup finals between India and Pakistan. Somethings never get old, like me since I was installed in this robot. Haha! Anyway, I'm glad our countries resolved our personal relationships. I liked typing out this dairy, no wonder why people did this. I'll be doing this more, but see you for now.

Jayanth



IT IS A DARK NIGHT OF SUMMER

ALBERTO MICHELENA GONZALEZ

2/02/2222

It is a dark night of summer, I mean dark because it is 2 am and should be dark outside but is already 3 weeks we haven't gone outside the Vault. We have listened that a new exploration is going to take place next week, we will see if Jimmy and I can be part of it...

2/08/2222

We have been selected to go outside and explore the Eastern part of our refuge, some people say that more than 150 years ago, there was a city called San Sebastian near there. This is what we heard from the ancients, some of them are 190 years old. They state that life was so different in their times than now, people lived outside the Vault, because they could. Nowadays is impossible to stay there longer than a week because of all the radiation. This radiation was caused by the weapons used in WW4, where 99% of the population of the world died more or less 50 years ago. I have learned this in my history class as I am 20 years old.

2/10/2222

Finally, is the great day... 2/13/2222

We spent 2 days there outside, and I found something, but I really didn't know what it is until I asked my great grandfather. He told me it was called a book

On the left open access picture by Domagoj Kolonić from: https://unsplash.com/photos/w9liM-wR_f8

and that people used to write things in it. We opened and realized it was like what I am writing and e-diary but in a book.

2/14/2222

It is 1pm I have just woken up, I spent the whole night reading the diary, I found that it was from a 25-year-old journalist that lived in 2018. I am amazed by all what he explains in the diary and I need to go and visit all the places he describes because I have to know how it was 200 years ago. The first place I want to visit is the waste management plant they had in San Sebastian, because as he explained:

"Recently the government has launched a project to build a new dump as the previous is already full. But it is a nonsense to do it where they have planned it, just outside Alza, they are going to be so many problems and protests, something bad is going to happen. The other alternative was an incinerator to burn all the rubbish but here in Spain is bad seen this technology as it it said to pollute too much. There are places in northern Europe where this solution is seen better. I hope we would have their same view, things would be different..."

After reading this piece I searched in our computers some articles about this fact or something related but nothing useful... but found that Alza seems to be a working-class neighborhood quite poor in the suburbs of San Sebastian. Why would it be dangerous to do there? I can't understand why that could that way...I'll keep reading it.

2/23/2222

It is already a week since I found the book and the more I read it the more I like it and more I need to go to the places he mentioned. I am going to talk about this to my dad because I am sure he can do more than me. The finding of the book can be a good beginning to know more about the past because most of the data was lost during WW4 as it was not only a nuclear war but also an informatic war. The war was won by the USA when they managed to send a virus to the enemies and unutilized all the informatic tools and provoking them

to fight as they were in the XV century.

2/25/2222

My father has shown interest in investing for explorations to places mentioned by the journalist. They are planning to go to where the dump was supposed to be built and see what they find there. I have asked him if I can go with them but his answer was a resounding NO. I will keep trying to convince him to at least be part of one of the 4 expeditions planned.

3/01/2222

The first explorers are back 3 days after the departure. However 7 started and I have only see 5 enter in the Vault. I will ask what happened...

During the dinner dad told us that there were some problems during the exploration and that they had lost contact with 2 of them. Anyway this happened on the third day, maximum time outside the Vault is supposed to be a week so they still have time to find the way back home but in the Government they are not too confident about this fact.

3/02/2222

An alarm has woken up everyone in the Vault we have been asked to go immediately to the basement. There a group of soldiers took the poor's children and separated them from their parents at the same time that the fathers were taking into a separated room, everything looks suspicious. Going back to our home I asked dad what was this all about, he told me that he could not say a word to me but after insisting a bit he confessed. Even though I can't say a word about this. They are taking poor people to go and find the two explorers lost outside.

This is unacceptable... I could not be quiet...I am so mad about this, we can't let them do these things I have talked with Jimmy and we are doing something here. Even if my dad is one of the responsables of this as being one of the members of the board of the Government. Not because of being his son I have to stay

quiet, and much more knowing what I know and being responsible of all this. As if I had not found the book nothing of this had happened.

Things are not done this way, and having the resources we have here in the Vault... I feel so responsible I need to fix this.

3/03/2222

I have been talking to my colleagues and we have decided to create an association to fight against this injustice. We are going to make demonstrations so that things are not done in this way and find solutions.

3/07/2222

It has cost me but I have managed to gather a group of 35 people from the university to start with this ... We need to do something as soon as possible because we have heard that the first expeditions have already gone in search of the missing explorers. But I need more information about his situation, I have to trick my father to tell me more about the rescuers. I will pretend that I am interested in helping them but can not discover that my idea is to boycott the rescue.

Not the rescue but the fact that they take advantage of the power that the Government has to take advantage of the most needy. I have obtained information through my father who says that the people they took a couple of weeks ago are in a special unit where they are trained specifically for this task. I think infiltrating and releasing them is impossible, so with this information we can do otherthings.

3/10/2222

The first expedition starts tomorrow so we have to do something now!

After the meeting I had with the others we decided that we are going to block the exit of the explorers in protest so that the Government will realize that things are not done that way.

3/11/2222

It's 11 o'clock at night I just got home after being all day in the hospital, it turns out that some snitch told a representative of the Government and have appeared by surprise and have lashed out at us ... The final result has been 5 seriously injured and 7 slight, me among them. The worst of all is that they have done it in a way that it seems that everything is our fault and where the aggressors will go unpunished. But at least we managed to show others that we are going to fight for this injustices. And this can be the beginning of others joining us. Also we accomplished to delay the departure of the firstexplorers.

3/15/2222

It has been 4 days since we managed to abort the rescuers' departure, not because we do not want them rescued if they are still alive. But it is not fair that those who have to go in their search are poor people who have been separated from their family instead of being the real professionals who dedicate themselves to this. Dad told me it is because it is a very risky mission because on the one hand the explorers may have died and on the other hand there are no clues as to where they were lost and from the day they were lost they may have moved to survive

The truth is that thinking carefully if you find them alive means that you can survive outside the Vault more than a week, since more than 15 days ago they left.

3/20/2222

Good news, with the protest of last week the Government has reflected and realized that they were not doing things properly ... They are preparing a rescue mission because they have received signals of communication from abroad and everything points to it is about the 2 lost explorers. A feeling of hope has taken over The Vault and people are eager for them to come back alive, especially their families who were already missing and may be back. Everyone is helping in the preparation of the expedition and wants to contribute its grain of sand so that this goes well. Everything is planned so that this week they

will give their search abroad. And according to the experts the mission should not last more than 4days.

3/22/2222

The rescue mission has left this morning and all the inhabitants of The Vault have gone to give them encouragement. Dad is very happy and proud of me because according to him all this despite having been partly provoked by me, at the same time it is thanks to me. If I had not mobilized all the students to protest and to be heard and ignored.

03/24/2222

Yes! They have already returned, it seems that the rescue has gone well because more have arrived than they left but for now the Government has not said anything aboutit.

Finally, during the afternoon the Government has launched an announcement saying that both explorers lost in the previous mission have been rescued and they are well. They also added that this fact could help scientist to investigate more about the environment outside because the explorers have stated that they found life in form of animals and plants during their period lost.



MADRID 2200

JULEN EIZAGUIRRE AGUIRR

Hugo wakes up at 7:00 to start his last year at school. It is a special course, since this year the "National Integration Plan" is launched following the example of France, Sweden, Germany and Italy among others. After years of riots and protests in the suburbs, the regime of Carlota II de Borbón has created this plan for the integration of the children of immigrants, so that they do not remain outside of Spanish society. However, despite the fact that Hugo's family is in favor of the regime of Carlota II de Borbón, they are afraid that her son will have to interact with suburban kids.

When they arrive to class, they all sit in their desks. They sit in a clearly differentiated way from one another. On the left of the class are the white children and the other, black children, all with a green bracelet that identifies them as children within the National Integration Plan. When the teacher arrives to class, he tells them that the final work will be a work in pairs, and that the couples will have to be made up of Spanish children and children from the suburbs. Seeing that there is no willingness on the part of the students to make groups among them, a computer program is the one in charge of making the pairs according to the hobbies and interests of each one of them.

Hugo has to take Ayo. Although Hugo does not want to mix with the new students, he is happy because he is with the most handsome guy in the class. Hugo introduces himself to Ayo and Ayo makes it clear that all he wants is to pass the course and that if he could choose he would be at the school in his neighborhood. After that awkward moment they pass each other the phone

On the left open access picture by Sergio Rodriguez from: <https://unsplash.com/photos/Prqji-23e2QA>

numbers to talk about the work. At the end of the classes, Hugo takes his capsule and arrives at his house in 5 minutes. However, Ayo goes to the bus station to get on the bus that after a trip of 1 hour and a half will take him to his shack, next to the national dump.

Hugo comes home very happy and tells at dinner that he has to do a final job with a boy from the suburb, the parents laugh and make jokes about the students in the National Integration Plan, in the end they tell Hugo that he is great to work with Ayo, but do not even think about having anything with him, that they do not want those people in the family. Hugo also laughs and tells them that he does not plan to have a black boyfriend who lives in the landfill.

Ayo arrives home, and does not arrive as angry as his family expected him to arrive. He has told his parents that he has to do the job with a boy on the other side of the fence, a white boy. The father reminds him that if he is going to that school it is so that neither he nor his wife ends up in one of the prisons in Galicia like his uncle Samir, where they force him to rebuild again and again the prison that is torn down by the hurricanes or flooded by the continuous floods. What Ayo's parents want is for their son to finish the course so that the education ministry of Spain leaves them alone.

The next day everyone returns to class and they start with Spanish history classes. The professor tells how, because of his ancestors, the sea level rose as nobody before could imagine before which also created a climate of storms and hurricanes that would force 99% of Spaniards to move to the center of the peninsula, Madrid. Although it was almost like a desert, thanks to new technologies, temperatures were bearable. The African students were happy with the content of the history class, since it was the subject their parents had warned them would brainwash them.

After the history class came the social sciences. The professor explained that the lack of sex education and religious customs without any sense made continents like Africa multiplied their population by 15 in the last 50 years, making this continent uninhabitable. The spirit among the students of the National Integration Plan begins to warm up. The professor continues explaining that Europe has saved Africa by facilitating their entry into the old continent. Raffik replies that Africa is uninhabitable because it is totally contaminated, that for hundreds of years it has been the landfill of the West, and that now they live

on the outskirts of the city, separated by a fence and that they still live in landfills. The answer of the professor of social sciences is that if they had adapted to the new culture from the beginning there would not have been the revolts of 2190 that almost led to a civil war like in Italy, and was the reason for the creation of the Madrid Wall and the ghettos on the outskirts. He also reminded him that if it were not for the Spanish landfills their families would not have anything to eat, since almost everyone is in charge of recycling and in return the Spanish Government gives them some subsidies. Before such explanation, Omar and Raffik exploded, insulted the professor and broke his desk. State forces appeared and neither Raffik nor Omar was seen again by class. The director of the school explained that they were changed school, although in truth everyone knew that they were sent to Galicia, like the uncle of Ayo. Upon arriving at the dump, Ayo explained what happened at home and his parents asked him to please do not do any nonsense that would endanger his family.

Ayo continued going to school every day, and on Friday afternoon he used to stay at school with Hugo doing the work. Over time and although they both had prejudices of each other, they began to establish an increasingly friendship relationship. Hugo was attracted to Ayo, but he could not imagine a relationship with him since they came from completely different worlds. Ayo for his part did not consider a relationship with a boy and in addition from the city.

On Friday they finished the work, they stayed talking to each other at the school until they closed it. They did not realize what time it was. Ayo no longer had buses to his house, because of the floods that week there were fewer buses than usual to the suburbs. Unexpectedly, Hugo offered him dinner and sleep in his house and when both appeared at home and explained the situation, Hugo's parents were correct and gave him dinner to Hugo and Ayo. Ayo was surprised at the good reception he had at Hugo's house but Hugo explained that they did it so as not to be labeled as racist and classist.

After dinner, they went to Hugo's room. Ayo wanted to thank him for not letting him spend the night in the street illegally since he could be arrested or beaten.

-Hugo, thank you very much for feeding me and letting me into your house.
-Don't give them to me, in fact I have to ask your forgiveness, at all times I knew what time it was. I also knew that today you had fewer buses due to

flooding in your neighborhood. I wanted us to have dinner and spend the night together, because I think I'm falling in love with you.

-Fuck Hugo, what are you saying, dude? I do not know what to say...

-I want to apologize Ayo ..

-It does not matter Hugo

And then it was Ayo who approached Hugo and kissed him in the mouth, after that kiss they spent a night of passion and they fell asleep side by side with their naked bodies.

The next day, Hugo's mother came to Hugo's room to wake them up and saw what had happened, woke them up scandalized and left without saying anything to the kitchen, Hugo and Ayo dressed as quickly as possible and Hugo went to the kitchen to talk to his mother.

-Mom, I'm sorry, I've fallen in love with Ayo, I have not done it to annoy you.

- No son, the only thing we have asked you is that you do not bring blacks in the family!

-Mom! Do not be like that, Ayo is a good boy give us an opportunity, please!

-Not talk, you have a lot of good guys in the city, forget about that black that lives among shit, you will not see him again!

The mother of Hugo, got into a capsule with Ayo and went to Ayo's house to explain to his family what had happened and to make it clear that she was not going to allow his son to be near Hugo.

Ayo's parents became very angry with their son, they blamed their son's homosexual behavior on the new school and they considered taking their son out of the National Integration Plan. After meditating, they decided not to remove him from the program since they would be the ones sent to the prisons of Galicia, what they did was to throw Ayo out of the house, who had to build a small shack in the neighborhood. Ayo was left without friends in the neighborhood, the neighbors broke their shack again and again and used to insult him in the neighborhood. In addition, the father of Ayo organized a wedding with a girl from the neighborhood of which there were also rumors that she was a lesbian.

On the other hand, Hugo's mother and father made it clear to Hugo that they did not want any kind of scum in their family. If they saw him again with Ayo, they would take more drastic measures.

Time passed, and even though Ayo was married to a girl from the dump, he continued to go to class so as not to embarrass his family. Hugo also went to class and every day at the end of the classes they were looking for a moment to be together without anyone knowing ... However, one day the Social Sciences teacher saw them together and did not hesitate a second to tell the Hugo's parents. Hugo's parents went into a rage, they did not know how to get Ayo away from Hugo, but suddenly he came up with an idea that he could carry out.

Hugo's father works in a high position of the regime of Carlota II de Borbón, which was carrying out a plan to better integrate the children of immigrants into society. After several meetings, he convinced the people who make the decisions that they had to throw the immigrants out of landfills, since they lived in painful and unhealthy environmental conditions. In the same way, they would have to move all the inhabitants of that landfill to the north of Madrid, where there was no pollution, but neither was there fertile soil, nor almost water, since it is all sand. In addition, Ayo would be sent to another school away from Hugo's.

And so it was, under the pretext that they wanted to help immigrants, a private company took control of recycling in Madrid and expelled all the immigrants who live there north of Madrid. The vast majority of immigrants were happy with the change since they had talks with scientists who told them of the dangers of continuing to live. However, a small minority opposed the change and were sent to Galicia.

Ayo was forced to move north of Madrid with his wife and the National Integration Plan assigned him another school. Hugo and Ayo did not know anything about each other even though they used to think a lot about each other. No one dared to write a message until June.

A wave of heat arrived in Madrid in May to stay, night temperatures did not drop below 27 degrees and during the day they could reach 60 degrees. In the new neighborhood of Ayo there was almost no water and fights for food happened every day. On June 15, Ayo's wife went to the market for food, where she fought in the market for 1kg of lentils and received a knife. The ambulance took 30 minutes to arrive at the scene, too late for Ayo's wife who bled to death.

That night Ayo cried inconsolably and promised himself to change the destiny of his life, took courage and searched his list of contacts to Hugo, told him what was happening and that he needed his help.

Hugo, reading the message, wept with emotion and replied saying that he could not stop thinking about him and that he would help him if he needed it. They stayed the next day on the wall to see each other through the fence and talk. Hugo brought him food for the week and pills to make up for the lack of water. That's how they spent the whole summer, staying every 2 days on the wall to be together for a while imagining a future together.

In the end, Hugo's parents found out what his son was doing and what he was still seeing with Ayo. They managed to understand that his son was really in love with Ayo and that there was nothing they could do. Hugo's father decided to convince his wife to support Hugo's relationship with Ayo.

Ayo suffered homophobia in his suburb as well as insults for dating someone from the city. Hugo's father used that argument with Carlota II de Borbón to convert Ayo into a refugee and thus be able to live freely in the city and he got it. After performing all the procedures Ayo began to live as a normal person in the city and took off the bracelet that identified him as a student in the National Integration Plan.

In the end, Ayo met Carlota II de Borbón and was a key person to carry out effective actions and plans for an effective integration of the people of the suburbs in the city.



LYON

ISABELLE MARTINIER

Chapter 1 - The city of Workers

In these wiers of the city of Lyon in ruins, Tallula his waking up ashers to mach reminds her she has not eaten since two days. Despite the shrill whistle of the siren, Tallulah did not wake up on time this morning and she will be late at the farm. Her boss is going to take a pay-day off her wage, which is already scanty. As Tallulah is less than 15 years old, she is still assigned to a "child labor": eight hours aday,she deals with animals breeding and plantations maintenance. The majority of the farm products goes directly to the City of Lights, as the government is paying the Workers a misery, who are too poor to buy what they produce.

In three years, she will be considered as an adult and her boss - according to his degree of appreciation - will give her a job as a worker in the recycling of waste, agriculture, slaughter or power plants. Given the relationship with the boss, she may end up in recycling or in one of the power plants, where the life expectancy does not exceed thirty years due to all the toxic products they are forced to use and the high radioactivity.

Her watch indicates that she is already an hour late. Tallulah grabs her shoulder bag, cram the few stuffs that belongs to her inside, and rushes out of these wiers. The bright light dazzles her, despite the dust and clouds from the air pollution. However she does not let her eyes get used to it and goes to the farm. Far away, she can see the high scintillating wall that separates her from the City of Lights. The farm is near the wall, and every morning she walks past it, under the harsh look of the militia guarding it. Miradors, guards, electric field, barbed wire, and of course Rhone and Saone rivers, everything

On the left open access picture by Lyman Gerona from: https://unsplash.com/photos/mq0sAD9HS_U

was set up to make the City of Lights impenetrable. Only a few exceptions can move between the two areas, but the process is so complex that no one has yet managed to enter by cheating.

The City of Lights. How much has she dreamed of getting in there? Her mother had been there a few times before she was finally taken, and she had described a world very different from the one she is used to. Everything was beautiful, clean, like those real estate advertisements you can sometimes find in old newspapers. The Lighters themselves seemed more beautiful, despite their almost identical clothes and their imperturbable faces. She had even seen a tree there. In the City of Workers it does not exist anymore since the disaster of 2147, and the only plants they can see are the vegetables and fruits in the farm. The natural land does not let anything grow because of its high toxicity. So for the plantations, special clay and seeds are given by the government, to allow them to grow plants.

If her mother had to go to the City of Lights, it was because she was able to procreate. It was by bringing Tallulah into the world that it was revealed. She had tried to hide her daughter for a long time, living in the most remote places of the city and forbidding her daughter to move when she was working in the fields. But the authorities finally discovered her, and when Tallulah was six years old, her mother was arrested. After some verification tests, she had been definitely enlisted, and never returned. Few women are able to give birth, so as soon as authorities realize that a woman is able to do it, she becomes a Procreator. Their duty is to give their ova to the community, or even be surrogate mother for the Lighters, until their reproductive system is off. There are so few Procreators that their task is even harder, and they generally end up dying of exhaustion. When her mother was taken away, one of her friends had supported Tallulah, but when she started working at the age of seven she stole the little wage she earned. So Tallulah left.

In her group of Workers, Tallulah is one of the only natural children. The majority of the others were laid down by the authorities to the wall some morning, and then adopted by Workers' couples. Nobody knows how babies are chosen to go to the City of the Workers or to the City of the Lighters, but in order to continue to have an equilibrium (and especially a labor force), the government is giving babies to both sides.

Tallulah arrives at the farm, which is guarded, like all the production units in the city. Her boss does not even bother to call her to order, and scratches her day off the board while looking at her with a smirk. Another pay day that will end in his pocket to fatten him a little more. She no longer has a penny to buy

food at the only food store of the city, which is run by the government. So to eat tonight, Tallulah will have to go search for an old can in the rubble area. Fortunately, she knows it well because when her mother was still alive, that is where they were hiding most of the time. But the "Canuts" are also living there now, and she would better not meet these rebels. The Canuts are Workers who have refused the separate system, and have abandoned their jobs. To survive, they plunder the plantations, farms, stores, and sometimes attack the Workers to get their pay or their ration of water. Since most of them have pulled their chip off their wrist, they can no longer obtain the daily water ration distributed near the wall, but it allows them to no longer be identifiable and localizable by the government, and therefore to launch offensives against the wall. So far, none has been successful.

At the end of her work, Tallulah goes to the wall to get her ration of water which she drinks in a tread (to be sure no one would steal it from her) and goes towards the rubbles. She has to cross the whole city to reach it, and it was already getting darker as the night falls. All the better, she will be less likely to be spotted this way, and she still has battery on her solar energy lamp. It was a find of her mother, which she keeps preciously because it is very expensive in the black market.

It is already 11:30pm when she arrives in the rubble area. It is dark night, and that sharpens her sense of hearing. She is about to enter one of the old buildings, when she hears a noise behind her in the waste collecting area.

Chapter 2 - The city of Lights

The lights gradually turn on in the room, indicating to Louis that in an hour his History of Earth's lesson begins. He puts his forefinger on his Analyzer, which detects him a slight magnesium deficiency, and five minutes later his breakfast was served with a blue little pill. While he is having it, his daily program is projected: classes from 8am to 12am, an hour lunchbreak, and then back-to-school with the weekly survival training until 6pm.

Louis lives on the side of the City of Lights because his parents have passed the tests to enter the area. They are now working for the government of Lyon, in the voice surveillance department. Every day, they evaluate the sayings of each Lighters to establish profiling files. Here all movements, words, and even medical data are recorded permanently. A misstep and the government calls you to order. If too many missteps are reported, the government assigns you the role of "Cleaner", that is to say to the maintenance of the city. They are the

only Lighters dedicated to a Workers type of jobs in the City of Lights, and their residential building is under heavy surveillance.

The seventeen-year-old young man leaves the family apartment and walks to the institute. The first thing he sees is the imposing wall, which separates the small peninsula of Lyon from the rest of the city. Only the elites live here, those who has passed the test, now enjoying their life and lacking nothing, while controlling the city, its resources and people. Nobody knows the exact selection process of this test, except of course the secret dedicated department. Every year, some of the best workers are admitted to the test, which analyzes their physical and mental abilities, and establishes the psychological profile of the candidates. At the end, the Lighters are recruiting only those with the best profile and who will be the more useful to society. This totally biased system was established in 2155, during the reconstruction of Lyon a few years after the disaster. Louis was lucky enough to be born on the good side of this system, as his parents wanted to have ababy.

Louis finally joins his class of a dozen young people, and sits next to his friend Peter. Tonight after the survival training, they will try again to find an opening to pass on the side of the Workers. For 7 years now they dream of leaving the city, experiencing what the real freedom is, struggling for survival, and mostly getting rid of this dreary and barren life. They only have a few months left to pass their final exam, which will determine where they will work, so they are in a hurry. Given his current results, Louis could easily join the government, live in the best area of the city, rubs houlders with the greatest, and be at the origin of political decisions concerning the city... But that does not interest him. This system does not suit him, and his goal is to get in touch with the Canuts to create a real rebellion and change the system for a fairer one. The only way is to go to the other side. So at 10pm tonight, Louis and Peter will meet near the quarters where the Great Politicians live. This is the area where the wall is the less guarded, as people are not expecting rebellion from Politicians. The two teenagers will have taken care to demagnetize their chip by a ploy found two years ago. Thus, they will no longer be localizable. Three days ago, they found a potential passage in the wall, by passing through the waste disposal area. The escapade is risky, as they need to find a way to block the different automatic rakes and grinding systems, but they will try to block it with metalbars.

It is 9:50 pm, Louis puts on his technical equipment and his survival bag, disappears discreetly from the apartment, and ran off in the night directly to the evacuation waste tunnel.

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