

## Remember Before...

### 2020

I walked out of my front door, my twin brother right behind me. The world around us was changing. Before, the roads had been lined with cars each day on the way to school, but now the only things we see are buses and bikes. It makes getting around harder, but we had to get rid of our cars last year because a law had been issued. At first Max and I thought it was fun, getting to take the bus everywhere, but now... it's getting old. Each family in our neighborhood was ordered to plant a tree for each person in the family, so now our tiny front garden has four saplings in it as well as all the flowers Mom loves to plant.

Max pushed me, from where I had stopped, rooted to the spot.

"Get a move on sis!"

I pushed open the gate and walked out onto the sidewalk. Max shoved me aside and took the lead. We walked for twenty minutes before arriving at the only supermarket in a radius of 4km.

"Did you remember the list Mom gave us?" I asked.

"Duh. Remember what happened the last time I forgot it?"

I smiled. Max handed the list to the cashier.

The cashier studied the list and then looked up at us. "Have you guys got your ration cards?" Feeling stupid I pulled out the plastic card and swiped it up against the scanner. A few seconds later the cashier told me that there was too much sugar on our list.

"It's our birthday on Saturday," I started.

"And our Mom was wondering if we could have an extra 2 cups for our cake." Max finished.

"Just this once," the cashier said looking a bit worried. She tapped on a keyboard, and we started walking over to the window to pick up our groceries. "Happy birthday to both of you," she called after us.

Walking home I tried to remember what it had been like before what the government had called the 'Redesigning of Our World.' They'd gone through and put solar panels on all of the roofs, planted trees in the car parks and rationed food. Max and I decided on joining our parents as vegetarians last month; meat just keeps getting more and more expensive.

When we got home, Mom was on the phone. We put the groceries in the kitchen then I went up to my room.

Before the redesigning I had a closet full of pretty clothes: dresses to wear to the disco, jeans, colorful shirts. Now all I have are a few shirts that I still fit in and jeans that have been lengthened. The only dresses that I fit in are my mom's. We have to share them. I'm hoping that I'll get my very own dress or another outfit to wear as a present on our birthday. I still haven't gotten Max a present yet. Last year I knitted him a scarf and mittens. He had outgrown his other pair. I'm thinking of buying him a brand new ink pen and note book. I know that it will be expensive – the price of paper has skyrocketed – but I know that he'll like it and I want to get him something special for our 16<sup>th</sup>.

At dinner Dad told us about a declaration that was signed by all of the world's leaders, including the President of America, Prime Minister of Britain, and the leaders of China and Russia. On it was stated that until the issue of Climate Change was fully under control, there would be no wars or fighting anywhere. I'm amazed and thankful that everyone agrees to that. Mom also said that one of our neighbors just gave birth to twins. Unlucky. Before, it was only in China that families had to pay if they had more than one child. Now, it has spread all over the Western World. Luckily for us, Max and I were born 7 years before that rule came into play.

After dinner I walk outside, shovel in hand to start planting some vegetables for the summer. The sun goes down fairly early in April, so I have to work fast. Last year our new apple tree gave us enough apples to make an apple pie for Thanksgiving. It was great. The berry bushes in the back of the garden give us raspberries, blackberries and blueberries. Sometimes we even have a couple of lemons on the tree that we planted before the Redesigning.

As the sun goes down I go back inside and play a game with Max. Usually we play Monopoly. It reminds us of times before when we would go shopping with Mom and bought things with paper money. Now things are worth the same – or more, but we pay with coins. They may not be so good for the environment now, but in the long term, they're better. Mom says it's because they don't have to make new ones as often.

Tomorrow, we're going back to school. Our teacher is great – always trying to make us see the bright side of things. He makes us laugh and smile and our homework is never that hard. We do all of our work either on the digital slate or on the whiteboard now. No more pencils or binders. It's all because of the high price of paper. We read books on the digital slate now or borrow them from the library. I still have my favorite books from when I was little hidden safely in my room. I don't want the public library taking them away from me.

I wonder what will happen when Climate Change is finally under control.  
Will cars still be banned?  
Will more than half the population stay vegetarian?  
What will happen if Climate Change never is under control?  
What will happen?