

To the readers,

This short story has been written in order to denounce censorship and propaganda in the 21st century. Mostly to criticize the lack of plurality of the media given that all the media are owned by a few shareholders that are capable of imposing their ideologies and also imposing censorship to their reporters.

June 9th, 2036

It has been a very long time since I wrote in this diary. To be honest, I had neither the desire nor the energy to write. My whole life changed. It has now turned into a nightmare because of this little object that took the control over people. It was impressive how Thomas Brown succeed in imposing his ideology to the country trough his chip. Of course, people were now erudite but their brains were controlled, I was sure of it. People as me, who did not had it were now either forced to stay at home or to leave the country and sometimes they were even risking prison. It was the case of my mother. She refused to stay at our home so they imprisoned her last week. It was so unfair. Hatred progressively grew in me. I couldn't stay home and do nothing, I had to act. I took a knife and stuck it in my temple in order to have the same mark as the people who owned the chip so I would not be forced anymore to stay at home. Then, I went out, determined to bring together the last lucid people to fight back against Thomas Brown and his government. I knew what I was about to do. I also knew that my life could be taken from me.

1 year earlier

June 9th, 2035

This day has been really long. I've been distracted all day, in every classes, without even knowing why. So when school finished, I jumped on my motorbike and went home. When I arrived, the house was empty. One of the positive aspects to live in a small house was that every time I entered, I was instantly capable of knowing if I were alone or not. I took advantage of this moment of tranquility to switch on the TV so I asked and the screen appeared. Actually, it was not really a screen because I was not able to touch it but I was able to see the content. I've decided to watch the news on the main channel. This night, the news anchor Eric Hans, probably the most famous of the country, was introducing us a man. The man was wearing a navy blue suit and looked quite overbearing. He was frowning which made him look very serious. Eric Hans asked the man to present himself. He sighed and said nonchalantly that his name was Thomas Brown, that he was the assistant to the CEO of Wikipedia and that he was also working in research and development for about 10 years. He did not seem delighted to be there. In the

hope of breaking the ice, Eric Hans tried to make a joke that didn't seem to amuse Thomas Brown who stared at him with a stern look while crossing his arms. Distraught, Eric Hans coughed and resumed his usual assured air and said that he had invited Thomas Brown on this daily show to present his brand new invention that will soon be on the market. Thomas Brown nodded and started the presentation. His invention was called *The Clever Cee* (*Cee = C for chip*), it was an intelligent chip that we could implant near the temple and with it we would be able to find instantly information and acquire knowledge. He said that his goal with this device was to fight against illiteracy and misinformation in order to create an erudite population. He meant that people had less thinking skills than before mostly because of the technological devices and that his invention would be of paramount importance to the proper functioning of society. I had to admit that his invention was pretty interesting. Eric Hans asked him a last question about the price of the invention and the concerned creator replied that it would cost around one thousand and five hundred dollars.

July 9th, 2035

"*The Clever Cee* has just been released" announced Eric Hans on the daily news. "You can now find it in supermarkets or on the internet".

July 10th, 2035

I heard that the Wikipedia CEO, who was Thomas Brown's boss, went to jail last night and I've also heard that Wikipedia website is now forbidden. The reasons remained unknown.

September 3rd, 2035

Today was the first day of school. As always I took my motorbike and went to school, I rarely go outside without it. Unfortunately when I arrived I was late so I ran trough the corridors to gain time. It was obviously forbidden. I was in a very reputed high school and the rules were very strict. This high school was very far from my home, but my mother insisted that I should go to a renowned high school. When I entered in the class room, I sat in the last table. It was the mathematics course, I loved this class but I had very little sleep last night so I only partially listened to what the teacher was saying. As I was at the back of the room, I took the opportunity to take a look at the people in the classroom. There was this guy, Josh, the kind of guy you want to be with to laugh but absolutely not to work, that today seemed different. I was observing him when I noticed that he had a mark on his temple. I guessed that he got the new chip that everybody's talking about. By the way, the chip seemed to work pretty well on him. Today Josh was able to solve equations that usually need a few years of studies to be

jealous. I continued observing people, everyone had this same mark in the temple than Josh, even my two best friends, Marcus and Luke, what made me a bit jealous. They were sitting far from me and they looked concentrated. I also noticed that nobody was talking what is really unusual mostly the first day of school. They were sitting far from me and they looked concentrated. I also noticed that nobody was talking what is really unusual mostly the first day of school. Everyone was working and they were solving maths problems without making any efforts. Throughout the day, the only thing I had in mind was to get myself this famous chip. So when school ended, I went back home instead of hanging with my best friends and did all my homework. Mother wasn't coming back so I prepared the dinner and waited for her to come back to ask her to buy me a *Clever Cee*. The minute she walked into the house I came to talk to her about the chip. She directly refused so I tried to convince her by saying that everyone had it and that the results were very satisfying. She asked for the price so I told her and she answered that I would not have it and that this chip was too expensive. "Isaac, do you realize that this chip means cheating?" she said and I replied that this chip has just been created to make our lives easier but she didn't see it in that way. I told her that even Marcus and Luke but she didn't change her mind. She was saying that we were not as rich as the people in my school, I tried to respond but she ended the discussion before I said one more word. I blushed of anger then I went up to my room and slammed the door.

October 16th, 2035

This day has been special because it was the day on which I understood that nothing would ever be the same and that our lives had changed forever. Earlier in the morning, I was in history class, staring at the window while listening to our teacher, Mrs Borington. We were talking about the Second World War precisely about the Holocaust. I should have been excited because I loved history class but at this moment I thought that I was about going out of my mind. Luke my best friend stood up and said that the Jewish genocide organized by Hitler and Himmler was brainy and powerful and that they should be considered as heroes. Then he added that we should do the same thing with people who didn't own the chip. That was too much, the Luke I knew would have never said something like this. I got up and went to him in order to punch him, but Marcus separated us and grabbed my arms so I pulled violently from him. I took my bag and before leaving I said angrily "You are not yourself anymore since you bought this chip" everyone was staring at me so I added "All of you" then I left the classroom. In the corridor, I encountered a girl who didn't have the *Clever Cee*, just as me. I knew it because she didn't had the mark, what was surprising. She knew that I didn't have it too

because I caught her observing my temple. I heard her sighing of relief. After analyzing her I realized that I knew her, we were in biology class together last year but I was incapable of remembering her name. Although she was the kind girl I hated, scornful and too proud of herself because of her rare intelligence, I cannot deny the fact that she was beautiful. I stared at her a few seconds and I noticed that she was crying. I started feeling uncomfortable because I was not good at getting along with people. I opened my mouth to say something but she started talking. She said that she broke up with her boyfriend because since the moment he bought the chip, he started to have sexist remarks that he would have never said before, according to her. She was as confused as I was. Our worlds were turning into disasters so I started to understand her and I began to hate her a bit less. I looked down at her neck and I saw that she was wearing a pendant where it was written "Amee", so I guessed it was her first name.

November 30th, 2035

I wanted to watch the news but when I switched on the TV it didn't work. I asked to the TV to put the main channel so I could watch Eric Hans's emission but something else appeared that I didn't ask for. Thomas Brown, the creator of *The Clever Cee* took the control of TV and said these few words that I may never forget "Citizens of the United States, all means of information have been deleted, now if you need something you will be able to find it thanks to your *Clever Cee*" He repeated these words several times, it was a bit like an alarm. Annoyed, I switch off the TV.

December 5th, 2035

Today I haven't been able to enter in the school. The only explanation that I got was "rules are rules". But what were these rules? I took a look at the others. Everyone was entering without any problem. Among the crowd, I saw Amee, she was looking at me. It only took one look for me to understand. They had also refused her to enter. School was now forbidden from us because we didn't have a *Clever Cee*.

January 1st, 2036

Thomas Brown overthrew the power and became the new President of the United States. Within less than a year, he will have managed to build an army of spokesmen who think like him and he will have also managed to turn those who do not own the chip into enemies that people have to eradicate.

Camille Baudez, Elie Manau

