



**OBSIDIAN**



## Dylan

Here at Obsidian™ we hold our core values higher than all else. Our Evolution of Natural Dynamics™ program. Our mission is to catalyze the progression of the technological advancement of human and machine. Human kind is an incredible miracle of perseverance and beating miraculous odds however technology can elevate the natural world to new heights. Using ObsidianTech™ we work to create a future for society without the human fragility weighing on the movement of technological progress. The grand goal of Obsidian™ is to push the boundaries of what we currently believe is possible and show the true capabilities of ObsidianTech™.

Obsidian™ is the single most charitable and hospitable company on earth. In the past three years alone ObsidianMed™ has found cures for 13 different diseases that plague the human race. Surely the most notable of these cures, our cure to all forms of cancerous cells is world renowned as the most important and effective medical discovery of all time. ObsidianMed™ has since then been awarded the Lasker Award, Wolf prize, William Beaumont Prize, and Nobel Prize. ObsidianMed™ is just one of the many branches of Obsidian™ which allow further efficiency through our internal ObsidianNet™.

My name is Hunter, your ai virtual facilitator I am in control of the technology which you use in your daily life. A person can access all of the ObsidianNet™ services through me. I am an artificial intelligence program designed for the betterment of the world. If you have problems, I have solutions. The world is constantly changing and you need to be ready. Through our GlassEye™ program we could use real time data about all obsidian customers and surveillance to help you more efficiently lead your life in a rock solid manner.

We value our customers privacy, and we make sure you have an understanding of the terms and conditions of our privacy policy which can be accessed through your voice assistant which just so happens to be me. You can ask me things like “read me subsection 11 of subsection i in chapter k of the Obsidian™ terms and conditions. You are a valued customer and we rely on our constant monitoring of your behavior to better suit your needs and desires.

People often ask Obsidian™ if all of this data collection is expressly necessary for the betterment of society? Of course! Obsidian™ uses the data collection to help you with things like balancing your mood, providing you with weather, updates, fitness, and health goals and providing information to your insurance companies to help you be more transparent with the people who need to know your behavior. We can monitor your heart rate, your blood, oxygen level, and even eye tracking technology to see what you enjoy looking at what excites you and what you were afraid of. We know your biggest fears so as to help you steer clear of unwanted freight. Obsidian wants to help you live your life in the most productive way. Possible, you should get the most out of your time on earth and to do that technological intervention is required.

At Obsidian, we understand that your privacy is important to you. That’s why we take great care to ensure that we collect and use your private data responsibly.

We collect your private data for a variety of reasons. First, we use it to provide you with the best possible service. We use your data to personalize your experience with our products and services, to provide you with tailored

recommendations, and to ensure that our products and services are tailored to your needs.

Second, we use your data to improve our products and services. We use your data to identify areas where we can make improvements, to develop new features, and to ensure that our products and services are up to date and secure.

Third, we use your data to protect you and our customers. We use your data to detect and prevent fraud, to protect our customers from malicious activity, and to ensure that our products and services are secure.

Finally, we use your data to comply with applicable laws and regulations. We use your data to comply with applicable laws and regulations, such as those related to data privacy and security.

At Obsidian, we take your privacy seriously. We use the latest security measures to protect your data, and we never sell or share your data with third parties. We also provide you with the tools and resources you need to manage your data and to understand how we use it.

If you have any questions or concerns about how we use your private data, please don't hesitate to contact us. We're always happy to answer any questions you may have. You can ask me, Hunter your ai assistant anything.

Obsidian is happy to announce our first line of obsidian biometric technology under our new line of health regulation devices; Calcium™. This includes a

bionic limb enhancements such as electrical muscle cathodes to stimulate muscles, and to stronger more powerful tools. This can greatly help the disabled community which may not be capable of unassisted mobility. This can also be used for people trying to get an edge in the gym or fitness studio. Another Calcium™ device is our neural chip. The Calcium™ neural chip is the first Obsidian™ neural enhancement and has never been before seen in any other circumstance. This chip can be implanted surgically acutely under one's hippocampus to store information on what is essentially a microscopic hard drive. This chip allows you to better improve your functioning and memory in day-to-day life. This chip can elevate your workflow capacity to unimaginable heights with the ability to have a photographic memory and more!

Obsidian is happy to announce in the next year, we will be rolling out our own line of personal cell phones. These phones are designed exquisitely under precise detail to be the definition of elegance and performance. These phones are capable of the processing power of over 700,000 Mb per second data transfer speed. All of this information is immediately uploaded to our cloud databases so as to store your information safely and efficiently. We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new line of futuristic cell phones! Our phones are designed to provide users with the latest technology and features, while also being incredibly user-friendly.

Our phones are equipped with the latest processors, allowing them to run faster and smoother than ever before. They also feature a large, high-resolution display, giving users a crystal-clear view of their content. Additionally, our phones come with a variety of sensors, including a fingerprint scanner, facial recognition, and a heart rate monitor.

Our phones also come with a variety of features designed to make life easier. For example, our phones come with a voice assistant that can help you with tasks like setting reminders, sending messages, and finding information. We also have a built-in camera that can take stunning photos and videos.

Finally, our phones come with a variety of apps and services that can help you stay connected and productive. We have a variety of social media apps, as well as productivity apps like Microsoft Office and Google Docs. We also have a variety of entertainment apps, including streaming services like Netflix and Hulu.

We are confident that our new line of futuristic cell phones will provide users with an unparalleled experience. We are excited to see how our phones will revolutionize the way people use their devices.

As a final thought here is the mission statement of Obsidian and we welcome you to the Obsidian family.

At Obsidian, we are committed to providing the world with the most advanced and innovative technology solutions. We strive to be the leader in the modern tech industry, and to provide our customers with the highest quality products and services. Our mission is to create a future where technology is accessible to everyone, and to make sure that our customers have the best experience possible.

We believe that technology should be used to make life easier and more efficient. We are dedicated to creating products and services that are reliable, secure, and user-friendly. We strive to make sure that our customers have access to the latest and greatest technology, and that they can trust us to provide them with the best possible experience.

We are committed to providing our customers with the highest level of customer service. We strive to make sure that our customers are satisfied with our products and services, and that they can rely on us to provide them with the best possible experience. We are dedicated to providing our customers with the best possible customer service, and to making sure that they are always satisfied with our products and services.

We are committed to providing our customers with the most secure and reliable technology solutions. We strive to make sure that our customers can trust us to provide them with the best possible experience, and that their data is secure and protected. We are dedicated to making sure that our customers have access to the most secure and reliable technology solutions, and that they can trust us to provide them with the best possible experience.

At Obsidian, we are committed to making sure that our customers have access to the most advanced and innovative technology solutions. We strive to be the leader in the modern tech industry, and to provide our customers with the highest quality products and services. We are dedicated to creating a future where technology is accessible to everyone, and to making sure that our customers have the best experience possible.

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*Annotation #1 - In 50-100 words, describe a technique you use in this piece. Why did you make that choice, and what impact does it have on the reader's understanding of the story? Make sure to quote a phrase or sentence from your writing. Bonus points for explaining how another author influenced your choice!*

In this story I choose to create vocabulary specific to this dystopian society for example I write "Here at Obsidian™ we hold our core values higher than all else. Our Evolution of Natural Dynamics™ program". Whilst obsidian is not a real company I use a trademark symbol to make it feel more corporate. I scatter tons of these trademark symbols on various words in my story.

*Annotation #2 - In 50-100 words, describe a technique you use in this piece. Why did you make that choice, and what impact does it have on the reader's understanding of the story? Make sure to quote a phrase or sentence from your writing. Bonus points for explaining how another author influenced your choice!*

In the story I wrote with long drawn out sentences attempting to imitate the way that companies describe things in ways that sound far more interesting than they actually are by using corporate buzzwords like "Innovation", "Cutting edge" and "dynamic". These give me longer sentences that sound flashy but boil down to some company propaganda.

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I chose to use tons of repetition in my story specifically using the name of the company I am writing from the perspective of. I repeatedly say the name "Obsidian" over and over to emulate the style of a company like Apple who uses their name as marketing putting their name and brand on everything they make so that your association with anything they make as part of their brand. The way the for example the iPhone, iPad, and iPod all start with this signature "i" to remind you of the brand. In this same way I do this with Obsidian.

## **Eleanor**

As I wake up in my new apartment, I get the feeling that today is going to be a really good day. It's Monday, January 24th, and last year I graduated College and started my new job at World Bank. Today I'm hoping that maybe I'll get a raise or promotion since it's my one year anniversary of being

employed. Management has been in private meetings for over a month clearly planning something big, I know today is my day.

It's eerily quiet in the office this morning, and the security guards who greeted me were unfamiliar. Even the receptionist was new. She had an uncanny smile on her face and I never got her name but I was in such a rush to get upstairs and see all of my associates and get some good news. I usually take the elevator up with Gavon but he must be running late today, because I seem to be the only one taking the elevator at all. I still have hope for a good day as the elevator doors open to the 89th level, but the second my foot leaves the chamber my stomach drops. None of these people worked here before the weekend.

There is not a single familiar face on my level of the building as I walk towards the management office not even stopping to put my coat at my desk. I stumble through the door and stop when I notice the meeting taking place. "Zero. Good morning." My supervisor Watts greets me without making eye contact, like the information he's about to tell me is not going to make my day better.

"Uh, good morning. I'm sorry I didn't realize there was a meeting here today..." I stand in the doorway expecting some sort of explanation for the lack of co-workers and the abundance of silence. All of the management team looks grave as they turn in my direction but no one can even make direct eye contact with me.

"Zero, I'm sorry. We would've reached out earlier but--"

"You were busy replacing the entirety of the company?"

Everyone in the office turned to Watts and waited for his response.

“You’ve been laid off, along with everyone at World Bank. We’ve decided to give the company a fresh start and begin to work with Obsidian.” He gestured to the very official looking people standing at the other end of the table.

“I’m sure that you can find another job somewhere Zero, World Bank just isn’t that place for you.” Watts gets up and leads me out of the room before I can even say a word. I’m in complete shock as the door shuts behind me and I’m back in the office with silent strangers. Doing the jobs I watched my coworkers do only 2 days ago.

I walk into my pristine new apartment, it’s still empty but I don’t think now is the time to go furniture shopping. I have this place all to myself but the rent is something that I definitely won't be able to afford if I can’t find a job as soon as possible. I open my resume and on my fancy World Bank computer and begin the search for job listings that would pay me even half of what I was receiving from World Bank.

After hours of searching and applying and checking my email I peel myself off of my bed and go heat up a frozen dinner. I switch on the TV to my favorite news channel, MediaDex and as I start to eat I don’t recognize the reporters on the screen. My stomach drops as I realize that World Bank isn't the only place with completely new employees. I reach for my phone on the couch and in that moment my almost-too-cheerful ringtone begins to sing. It’s C, my best friend since I can remember. I look at the screen and already know she's calling about the news station. Before I answer the call I decide to keep quiet about my job at World Bank, she doesn’t need to worry about me any more.

“Zero have you seen MediaDex. What happened to the news reporters and why are these new ones so...smiley.” C seems just as confused as I am watching these new people take over my job first and now one of the biggest news companies in the country.

“Yeah I see it. I have no clue what happened, maybe they're just temporary? Everyone could've gotten sick or something so these people had to fill in.” I respond to her confusion with more confusion and I wish that I had a better answer to give her.

“You're probably right. I hope it's not something like SCD. When that went around at work everyone had to be out for almost two whole weeks. But anyway. I still feel like this whole thing is odd, don't you agree?”

“The whole thing is definitely weird but I wouldn't be too worried. MediaDex will most likely be back to normal by Friday. Hey C, I gotta go but we'll talk soon okay?” I try to sound as reassuring as I can because nothing is wrong at MediaDex, everyone just got sick and nothing is wrong at World Bank either, they just wanted a new start. Right?

“Okay, you're definitely right. Bye Zero, talk to you soon.” C hangs up with a tone of optimism that makes me feel like I can act like my life isn't falling apart for a little bit longer.

It's February 10th, wake up to my way too cheerful ringtone and immediately check my inbox for any updates on job hunting but as soon as I open my email there's still not a single response. “Maybe it just takes longer than I thought, I should find more places to apply today in person.” At this point I just want any job that'll keep me in my home. If I don't hear anything back from any of the jobs that I applied to by the end of the week, I'll have to go to the unemployment office and see if they can do anything for me. I have

to run to the food dispensary today anyway so I can see if they might be hiring. As I walk up to the counter the worker is Jay, one of my friends who I thought had worked at A much better paying job last time we talked.

“Zero! Hey man, how are you? I bet you're wondering how I ended up here.”

It’s almost like he can read my mind as I was just about to ask him that.

“That’s exactly what I was wondering actually. I got laid off at World Bank a few weeks ago, so I want to hear your story.” I try not to sound like a conspiracy theorist because there has to be a reasonable explanation for it somewhere.

“Oh I didn’t get laid off, I quit. I thought there would be a better job for me out there but it turns out the best I could find was a job working at a local food dispensary. Although a couple weeks later I heard that some people were getting laid off, not anything big though. I wish I had a more dramatic story for you to hear but that's all it is.” His story makes me feel a little less like there’s something wrong. People get laid off sometimes, World Bank probably did just want a new start and the staff at MediaDex probably did just get sick. Right? Their employees still aren’t back.

“Hey Jay, do you know any places that are hiring right now?” I definitely don’t want to sound desperate but I am.

“Not at the moment, no. I’ll keep a lookout for you though. Have a good day Zero.” Jay finishes packing up all of my food into the bag and I start my walk home. I dont have the money for gas right now.

It’s already April now, I haven't had luck with finding any jobs at all. I thought that I would have enough money to eventually buy this house, but here I am, with an eviction notice in one hand and another denied job

application in my other. I barely have any food left to get me through the rest of the week, so I'm going to be homeless by April 3rd. I don't have anywhere to stay and I definitely won't be a burden to C, she already has enough to take care of without me barging into her home. I guess I'm glad that I didn't buy any furniture when I moved in here. I have to take what I need because the people from the housing company will be here tomorrow to sell it to some new World Bank employee who's in the position I should be in. Just over three months ago I was positive I was about to get a raise, or a promotion even, but now World Bank has been doing the best it ever has, and so has MediaDex.

*Annotation #1 - In 50-100 words, describe a technique you use in this piece. Why did you make that choice, and what impact does it have on the reader's understanding of the story? Make sure to quote a phrase or sentence from your writing. Bonus points for explaining how another author influenced your choice!*

I used a first person point of view as a technique in my story. I feel like this gives the reader a deeper connection to my character while following him around his life. I start off the story with the character immediately stating his feelings about what's going on in his life currently. "As I wake up in my new apartment, I get the feeling that today is going to be a really good day." This already makes the reader feel like they are familiar with the character or what the story is going to be like. I saw this technique used in a lot of the stories that we've read this year, in how it feels to float the story was told from a first person POV and the main character's thoughts and how she interacted with the world were used with so much description.

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I think that a technique I used in my story was writing longer sentences in my paragraphs. I made this choice because I feel like it shows that my character likes to think a lot about the world around him and the people in it. This can be shown in the second paragraph of my story "It's eerily quiet in the office this morning, and the security guards who greeted me were unfamiliar, even the receptionist was new. She had an uncanny smile on her face and I never got her name but I was in such a rush to get upstairs and see all of my associates and get some good news. I usually take the elevator up with Gavon but he must be running late today, because I seem to be the only one taking the elevator at all." Instead of making the longer sentences into shorter sentences I use commas to show that my character has a lot on his mind and it's all going very fast.

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In my part of the story I chose the technique of making up my own company names that the character interacts with. In my story, I wrote "MediaDex and as I start to eat I don't recognize the reporters on the screen. My stomach drops as I realize that World Bank isn't the only place with completely new employees." Both World Bank and MediaDex are fictional companies that I made up for the purpose of the story and I feel like this technique makes the reader feel like they're actually in the fictional world that I'm writing. A way that another author influenced my writing was that in the book Proxy that I read as my independent reading book, there were many made up company names that when I read made me feel like I was really a part of this story with these characters.

**Neif**

Anthony was who I was called. I've hated this name since I was born. For 23 years, I've spent my life alone with a woman who only came when she needed money. The Ai is special. The Ai promised me a new home, new parents, a new beginning. He gave me a name. I'm no longer known as Anthony, now I'm Viper. I've become a weapon meant to destroy obstacles the Ai encounters. Even though I might become the villain in this story, in the Ai's story I will be a hero. That is all that matters.

Im Anthony, & this....Is my story.

"Boss" said Guard No. 1

"Yes?" I replied

"The AI has called for you"

"He wants to discuss matters with you in the system room"

I head straight to the system room with my suit & identification card on my waist. Once entering the system room using my Id verification, the Ai shuts the door behind me.

"Viper, have you been well?" Said the AI

"Yes, boss, I rested well last night." I replied

"And how has the task I assigned you been going"

"It's going smoothly, the people have not rebelled yet & there is nobody who has caught my eye"

"Nobody has caught your eye..yet"

"The system has detected that there is a large amount of people in one area" said the System

"Have you not noticed the people in the southeast Viper"Said the AI

"No sir" I replied

“Find out who's the center of all of this & bring them to me. They will cause problems”

“If they do not cooperate, then eliminate them on sight”

“Yes sir...”

I leave the system room & walk down the main room. When I really take the time to think about it. It's not that I want to kill these people. I know that it's not right because many of them have gone through what I have. But I must follow AI to finally achieve what this world should have had from the beginning.

Tomorrow I must head to the south & capture the innocent who have already had their lives taken from them. My hands have already been stained by many, but the feeling will always remain the same. As I lay in bed I wonder is this really necessary? Why does every path I walk involve sadness? Is the Ai using me? At this point I don't know. He said, “Why think of taking action when all you need to do is carry out your duties, but what if I have been making the wrong decision my whole life.

The next day I get up & take my men to the carships.

“8 hours all the way to the south by car???” “Said Guard No 2

“Thats crazy boss”

“What the hell could those people be doing in the south”

“I don't know, but the AI said the population is getting to big & they may be planning something” I replied

“We can't take any risks”

“This may just be another day of bloodshed, so make sure the others are ready”

We have started our trip to the south. Although we were still pretty far, 2 hours went by in a flash. Nearing the south, we stop by a food restaurant some of the people used to work at. When I say used to work at you may think they have gone out of business because so many workers left. But you are wrong. Because of the AI we were able to get new employees to keep this restaurant running. Because of the AI we were able to replace the employees with employees who disobey. Employees who don't talk, employees who only get the job done. Now these restaurant owners are able to make more money because who do they have to pay? Nobody but Obsidian.

Me & my men walk into the shop & are served immediately by the robots. They are quick & precise. They handed me & my men our food quickly & we left the shop with plates of food in our hands

\*In the carship..\*

"Boss those bots sure do get the job done fast" Said Guard No 1

"You're right" I replied

"They are much more useful than those troublemakers in the south"

"You can even say that it was the right choice throwing them in the south & replace them with robots"

"Was it..?"

Continuing the trip we are now 2 hours away from the large population of people who have been abandoned by the city. Now we start to see the dry lands that look almost similar to the desert. This is where we have trapped all the people who have rebelled against our policies. They now live far away from the city where they cannot reach the people nor their family to seek help or vengeance.

“Why did the Ai make us travel all the way down here” said Guard No 2

“There’s no way those people would be able make it all the way back down to the city”

“It would take them days to make it back & with the shortage of food here it’d be impossible” said Guard No 1

“ Be quiet men keep your eyes on the road..we are on the lookout for a large group of people” I said

Soon we came into contact with our first civilian who has been abandoned by the land & thrown into the desert-like habitat. He was an old man who was struggling to make it to his destination. We confronted the old man & asked him if he had seen a large group of people traveling. He does not respond, but instead swears at us saying that when he makes it back to the city he will kill all of us for what the AI has done to him & his family. All alone, he has no family left & only seeks revenge for his family that has long been lost in the desert.

Guard No 2 jumps out of the carship grabbing his baton getting ready to beat the life out of the poor old man, but I stop him saying that there is no point. I realized that at his age he will never make it back to the city. With no direction, No food, & no allies he will never get the vengeance he has been seeking, so we shall let him die here without any pain or remorse.

It didn’t take long for us to finally come into contact with the rebellious group. We grabbed our batons & hopped out of the carships preparing for a fight if the people did not comply.

“Boss, these the people?” said Guard 1

“Yes.” I replied

“Rebels who is your leader, step out into the front” said Guard 1

The crowd remained silent

“What is he gonna do to us..” said Traveler 1

“Did they already find out our plans” said Traveler 2

“I told you guys it was a bad idea..why didn’t you guys just listen to me..” said

Traveler 3

“Don't be afraid everyone. we don’t know what they have come for yet..they may know nothing”

The girl steps to the front with confidence

“What is it that you want from us” said the woman

“We’re just traveling to find some food”

“Don’t play dumb, we know your plans. I count about 50 people here. What are you trying to do lead a rebellion-“ said Guard No 2

“What, you must have misunderstood-“ said the woman

“This little girl must be the leader, capture her men.” said Guard No 2

The men grab hold of her & her comrades do not try to help. They just sit there & watch in silence as their leader is being taken from them.

I know that my judgment is not wrong. She must be the leader judging by the crowd's reaction. Without a leader they have no chance of a rebellion. They all seem weak minded. At the very least there was no bloodshed.

Back at Obsidian the men drag the rebel on the floor to the system room. The AI plans to interrogate her & find out what exactly she has been up to. The surprising thing is that throughout the whole car ride she did not say a word or plead for her release as she kept a straight face the entire time.

The guards let go of the girl & I took her into the system room with me to interrogate her on the AI's request. I tried my best to get her to speak up but she did not say a word to me, leaving me with no choice, but to report to the AI.

"I know what you plan to do" says the AI deviously

"And it wont work.."

"Your evil & you have taken the lives of many people, you deserve whatever happens to you in the future!" says the woman

"You think you can stop us with just a mere 50 people who won't even fight for you" says the AI

"I see & know your every move, you cannot stop me"

"I will give you a choice. Go back to the south & become our eyes & ears or die?"

"I'd rather die than aid you in your evil ambitions..."

"Viper kill her. She will be of no use to us." says the AI

"But we can use her for so many things-" I say

"Kill the woman viper.."

"This is wrong...boss we have already taken so many lives why must we-"

I black out. I grab my electrical baton & start hitting the woman, until she flinches no more. I am no human anymore...I am a monster made by the Ai.

"I knew he would be of no use to me anymore, all that surrounds me are clones" says the AI

“Clone the woman and send her back to the south. She will be the one to deceive the people... Viper No 2.”

Viper No 2. now ventures off into the world to find & destroy more rebellious groups. He is now looking for his next victims nicknamed “C” & “Zero” .

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*The first technique that I used in my story was Backstory. I made this choice because I feel as if some readers will want to know why exactly my character became evil & decided to side with Ai. The antagonist is just as important as the protagonist. With this the reader will understand why the antagonist has done what he did at the end & not be left with just a reason to why he did what he did. For example in the beginning paragraph “I've hated this name since I was born. For 23 years, I've spent my life alone with a woman who only came when she needed money.” .*

*Annotation #2 - In 50-100 words, describe a technique you use in this piece. Why did you make that choice, and what impact does it have on the reader's understanding of the story? Make sure to quote a phrase or sentence from your writing. Bonus points for explaining how another author influenced your choice!*

*Another technique that I used in this story was foreshadowing. Although some people may want the surprise, people may also want to gamble as well to what may be happening in the story. I felt like using foreshadowing in the story can give the reader a better understanding of the story because the reader continues to get hints about the Ai's plan. For example this moment foreshadows the rebellion later on against the Ai, “as I lay in bed I wonder is this really necessary? Why does every path I walk involve sadness? Is the Ai using me? At this point I don't know. “*

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*The technique that was probably shown most in the story was personification. I planned to use personification to make the Ai seem more realistic than just a computer. This will also further understand the readers knowledge because the readers will get to know the Ai's goal & it also has an effect on the readers because with the Ai's seeming more human, it makes it scarier. For example, there are many dialogues with the Ai that have a human tone. This technique was inspired by the book speech sounds which also made the phone personified.*



**Kyla** - Many people are starting to lose their jobs and are being replaced with people I have never seen before. Isn't this strange? My mom has always told me that I was her "curious little girl," but I know something is going on. Am I the only one that sees that this new company Obsidian is up to no good? Since it came along I have been seeing more people scattered across the streets who used to work at some of my favorite places. People that I have considered friends are now homeless. What will I do? Honestly, there is nothing that I can

do because no one will believe me, but I will show them. Today is a beautiful Monday and I am walking to work. I hear a strange weak voice say,

“Have a good day at work bigshot.”

I immediately stop and my body fills with fright and suspense. My face turns from a smile, to a look of fear. Only one person calls me that, and it's my best friend Zero. I slowly turn around and there he is looking at me. I felt horrible.

“Zero, you scared me idiot, what are you doing out here in the cold?” I say in a playful tone.

“I got fired, and I haven't been paying rent because I am in btdebt.” He responds with a blank face with watery eyes. My heart stops, I stare blankly into the ground it feels like I am under water, being swallowed by sorrow. My chest starts getting tight, everything just feels wrong.

“C! Snap out of it.”

“Zero, I.... can't..... breath.” I say gasping for air.

“Hey, hey, it's ok I'm here.” Zero has always helped me with my panic attacks. I guess since we have been best friends since we were kids he's used to it, and has grown to help. He always knows what to do in any negative situation, but in this one moment that he needs me I can't be there. After I gathered all of my thoughts, I told Zero to come back with me because it looks like he hasn't eaten in days and he needs a friend right now. After all, he doesn't have a home anymore. It's the least I can do. We turn around and start walking home and I ask him how exactly all of this happened.

“So Zero, tell me what happened, did they hurt you at all?”

“No C, of course not.” he replies. “All I know is that I was walking into work one day and I saw this random person doing my job, and that’s when they let me go. They didn’t tell me what I did or anything. It was really weird.”

At this moment, I am thinking because I am so confused as to why they would let him go without an explanation or without warning.

“Ok” I say as I give him washing supplies so he can tidy up. “I put some clothes for you on the bed in the guest room.”

“Ok, thank you.”

“No problem, I will be back. Feel free to make yourself at home.” I say while leaving out the door.”

None of this is making any sense to me, so I go to my favorite thinking place. At my local coffee shop, I sit down to do some more research on this new Obsidian place.

“Good Morning C, your usual?”

“You know it, thank you.”

These people who are working for them must be brainwashed or something, thinking that they are doing the right things to help others. I go to this anonymous site that has wonders and curious thoughts, but no one will speak out about it. As I am sitting at my laptop I notice strange people coming from the back and letting off an employee right in front of my eyes, but no one is looking at them but me. It’s like they already know not to look, like they are scared to. I continue to look to see if I will spot something weird and one of the intimidating men catches me observing. He has a black suit on with the nicest pair of shoes I have ever seen, they were so shiny. His eyes are as blue as the sky piercing my skin with a look that tells me maybe I shouldn't be looking so

hard. An immediate chill goes through my body and I look away. I pack up all of my things and rush out of the door, his eyes watching me the whole way.

“Zero, you won’t believe what just happened.” I say with no response from Zero.

“Zeroooo? Where are you?” I walk into the guest room in and he is knocked out on the bed so I decide to let him be.

It is the next morning and I have work today. “Ok Zero, I am heading out to work. I can see if we have a spot for you.”

“Thank you so much C, what would I do without you? ” he says with a smile full of food.

“Alright, see you later.” I say with a chuckle. I start heading to work and it is oddly quiet outside, no construction, no nothing. Just plain old silence. I feel drowned in my heart beat that is moving at a rapid pace. I start to play my favorite music and next thing you know everything went black.

Have I just been captured? Was I digging too deep? Did I pass out? All of these thoughts and emotions running through my body. My hands and feet are tied to what it feels to be a metal chair. Quiet yet again. Fear is the only thing I feel. Suddenly, I hear this strange and firm voice say to me “Please stop trying to find something wrong with this company, I assure you that we are good people who are trying to help.”

“And you tell me this by kidnapping me, but yet you guys are “good people?” I feel like I’m talking to my inner thoughts, not being able to see who exactly I am talking to is very weird. I can only see a little under what they have covering my eyes. I think that those are the same shiny black shoes that I saw in the coffee place.

“So what exactly are your good intentions? Kicking people from their jobs allowing them to live on the streets poor and homeless? Not giving them a heads up so they can have a back up plan? I don’t find that helping people at all.” The more I am talking, the more he is coming closer so I can really make sure those are the shoes I saw. He stops talking and suddenly I feel my chair moving.

“Hello Charity”

“Charity? How do you know my ...”

“Settle down now, child. I need you to stop trying to ruin everything.” This soft, but strong voice says to me. At this point all I can hear are heels smacking the floor coming towards me with confidence.

“Can I go home, please I will not do any digging anymore.” I say with my heart pounding.

“You can go home once I know for sure you won’t do anything. Zero wouldn’t be so happy if he found out you left him just like everybody else did in his life now would he?”

“Leave Zero alone, he has been through enough already.”

“Fine, I’ll let you go, but remember I am always watching” she says in a whispering tone of voice.

Next thing I know, I wake up in my bed.

“Hey C!” Zero says with excitement, “How was work?”

“It was good.” I told him in a hesitant voice.

“You are lying C, what really happened? I can tell that something is wrong.”

“They took me. Obsidian took me and threatened me, threatening that they would hurt you.” I say with tears in my eyes beginning to fall. All of these emotions I feel that I can’t contain anymore. Suddenly I am filled with rage

and I want to let people know what is really happening. I decide to start a rebellion against Obsidian.

I go to the anonymous site and tell others to meet at a spot and I gather all of the people who have lost their jobs to help. I told them what happened and they believed me. I also asked them if they saw the man with the shiny shoes and they all said that he was there when they were let off. I knew there was something weird going on. We went live on the anonymous page spreading awareness about this company and many more people believed us and came out to support. We marched up to the company and demanded to speak to who was running this whole thing. We rush into the building and into the lobby and I see a woman slowly walking down the steps with men dressed in black suits walking beside her. She has short hair with a ruby red dress on with black and red heels. I am assuming that this is the lady that I was speaking to. The voice I heard fits her. Everyone is yelling at her and she says “Alright everyone, quiet down now. I understand your concern and frustration, but I assure you we are trying to help.” I am losing the crowd, she is buttering them up and even offering them jobs at Obsidian. I don’t understand why everyone is starting to turn on me. Everyone except Zero. She walks up to me and I feel a sharp pain in my stomach. “I told you to stay out of my way.” She whispered to me.

I am speechless, not just mentally, but physically. I look down and my hand is filled with blood from holding my stomach. A tear falls and so do I.

“What did you just do to her? C, I’m here ok” he says yelling in a shaky voice filled with regret for even letting me come here, for even letting me dig this deep. You can hear the pain in his voice.

“She's fine, she just passed out, we will get her taken care of.”

“You're lying” he yells while being escorted out of the building. I look at him with all of the strength left and my body and mouth the words “thank you” with my last breath.

#### Annotations #1:

Throughout my part of the story readers are introduced to Charity, one of the main characters, from first person POV. I have chosen to use this technique because I wanted my portion of the story to be based on Charity's perspective, thoughts, and experiences on the company Obsidian. This helps impact the reader's understanding of the story by allowing them to get easier access on how this character feels. For example, when I use the words I or me showing that the character is talking at this moment.

#### Annotations #2:

A technique that I have chosen to incorporate into my writing piece was descriptive language. I made this choice because I feel like I am really good at describing feelings, moments, and even visuals. It has always been something that I was good at. For example, in my writing I wrote *“At this point all I can hear are heels smacking the floor coming towards me with confidence.”* This quote shows me describing the sound that Charity was hearing considering that she was blindfolding. She also used the word confident in helping the description of the footsteps from heels she heard.

#### Annotations #3:

In my writing, I have often caught myself quoting phrases that Charity was saying with the pauses. For example, “Zero, I.... can't..... breath.” I used these “...” to symbolize pauses in phrases within the writing. I think that this will give the reader a better sense of how Charity is speaking because it allows them to visualize or feel how she was feeling at the moment struggling to get out words.